

# *The Otsego County Chamber*

Strengthening Our Economy  Shaping Our Future

## *Media Release*

*The Otsego County Chamber*

**ANNOUNCES**

**NBT DISTINGUISHED BUSINESS**

**AND EUGENE A. BETTIOL, JR.**

**DISTINGUISHED CITIZEN**

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*The Otsego County Chamber* is proud to announce the recipients of two of our areas most prestigious community service awards. This years' NBT Bank Distinguished Business is Northern Eagle Beverages and the Eugene A. Bettiol, Jr. Distinguished Citizen award is being bestowed upon Albert "Sam" Nader, former Oneonta Mayor and civic leader.

"*The Otsego County Chamber* is proud to honor Northern Eagle Beverages and Sam Nader," offered Mark Grygiel, Chair of the Chamber Board. "Our region has been blessed to have such community oriented honorees. We celebrate their commitment to the business community here in Otsego County. Each has made our region a better place to live and prosper!"

"The selection of Sam Nader to receive the 6th Annual Eugene A. Bettiol, Jr. Distinguished Citizen award and Northern Eagle Beverages as the NBT Bank Distinguished Business are great choices," said Rob Robinson, President & CEO of *The Otsego County Chamber*. "We are proud of them for all their efforts to make Otsego County a better place to live. You can't look around this area and not see that they have had positive impact on the quality of life here in Otsego County!"

Sam Nader, a lifelong area resident, has made countless contributions to this region, including the arrival of professional baseball in Oneonta. Nader formed the Oneonta Athletic Corporation (OAC) in 1968. The OAC operated the Yankees Class A minor league until the late 1990s when the Detroit Tigers located a minor league team in Oneonta. Sam Nader, and his partners, sustained one of the longest continuously operated franchises in baseball. The team pioneered promotions and events that were later adopted by other teams and received national attention.

Nader's commitment to the greater Oneonta area extends far beyond government and baseball and has been recognized by numerous local institutions and civic organizations including Opportunities for Otsego, LEAF Counsel on Alcoholism and Addictions, Wilber National Bank, and many more. The SUNY College at Oneonta annually awards the Albert S. and Alice H. Nader Scholarship to a deserving local student.

Nader said he was thrilled to get the Chamber's call. "I am deeply honored to receive this award and to be in the company of so many distinguished individuals whom I have admired for years."

Northern Eagle Beverages, located on Railroad Avenue in Oneonta, was founded by Louis Hager in 1986 and currently employs 33 people. The business supplies beer and soda throughout Otsego, Delaware and Chenango counties. In 2001, Northern Eagle Beverages was selected as the Wholesaler of the Year for the Northeast by Anheuser Busch. In addition to good business, Northern Eagle Beverages believes in good citizenship, supporting the Friends of Bassett, Foothills Performing Arts Center, Hospice, the United Way and others.

Louis B. Hager, Jr., owner of Northern Eagle Beverages was pleased with news of the award. "I think it reflects the dedication our employees have in servicing our business partners across the three counties."

*The Otsego County Chamber* Annual Banquet and Celebration of Business will take place on Saturday, April 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:45 pm in the SUNY Oneonta Hunt Union Ballroom. Tickets are \$77.50 a person or \$750 for a table of ten. For information and reservations contact Pam Ferguson at [pam@otsegocountychamber.com](mailto:pam@otsegocountychamber.com) or (607) 432-4500 ext 201.