

# Burke CONNECTION

## Springfield Resident Named Living Legend

Al Grande, founder of ASAP Printing & Mailing and Alexandria Police Foundation, to be honored in 2012.

By [Victoria Ross/The Connection](#)

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Photo Contributed  
**Claire and Al Grande**

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Al Grande, a Greenspring resident, has been selected as one of the 2012 Living Legends of Alexandria. Honorees receiving this award have been involved in "the creation of something that improves the quality of life in Alexandria that would not likely have existed without that person's vision and determination to make it happen" or have given "a minimum of 10 years of service on Boards, Committees, Commissions or Service Organizations" according to the Living Legends of Alexandria Committee.

Born in Dover, N. J., Grande graduated from Bucknell University and was later commissioned as a U.S. Army 2nd Lt. in the U.S. Army Military Police Corps. After serving 20 years of active duty, Grande moved to Alexandria and opened ASAP Printing & Mailing Co. in the Del Ray neighborhood. He joined the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce and was later recruited to serve on the Chamber's Board of Directors. He also was elected Chairman of the Potomac Trade Association, now the Del Ray Business Association (DRBA), and was subsequently elected to the Board of Directors.

Grande has donated time and resources to local schools by serving as a volunteer reader at the Mount Vernon Community School teaching children how to read the English language, donating materials to local art programs, and establishing a relationship with T.C. Williams High School which allowed seniors in the printing program to receive hands-on experience with ASAP's presses and binding equipment. Grande was elected Chairman of the Alexandria Small Business Development Center and was a founding member of the Alexandria Police Foundation. He now lives with his wife, Claire, at Greenspring and is a resident ambassador and a member of the Greenspring Resident Advisory Council's Marketing and Publicity Committee.

The 2012 Living Legends of Alexandria will be honored at a reception at the Patent and Trademark Office on March 22.

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