

Hank Mann Sykes is a founding member of the Central Kitsap Community Council and has distinguished himself by completing four terms of appointment on the council. In his ten years on the council he has provided steadfast leadership to serve the groups mission of advising the Board of County Commissioners on issues affecting the greater Silverdale Community.

Hank is an energetic and enthusiastic supporter of the Silverdale Community who is always thinking of things that need to be done to make Silverdale even better. He was the founder of and driving force behind the Great Kitsap Duck Race which has raised and returned hundreds of thousands of dollars to the Silverdale community. He was involved with vision 2020; is a founding member of the Central Kitsap community Campus Task Force and has worked tirelessly to ensure that the Central Kitsap Community Campus will be the future home of a new library and community center for Silverdale and the Central Kitsap community. Hank has held various leadership roles with the Silverdale Chamber, Rotary, United Way, and Boy Scouts to name but a few. When his health allowed, he played a key role in Silverdale's Christmas tree lighting ensuring the tree's lights were restrung and coordinating the lighting ceremony. He has often been the Master of Ceremony for the Lions' Whaling Day Parade. Hank has supported the creation of parks and trails and has inspired others with his passion for making Silverdale walker friendly.

As many of you may know, Hank was wounded in Viet Nam and, as a result of these ancient wounds, has suffered major health consequences over the past 40 years. Because of these wounds, in 1990 he had a dual organ transplant. During his recovery from this transplant procedure, Hank was forced to lie on his back in a hospital bed for months. (Hank was the sixth person in the United States to have a dual organ transplant.) The ongoing health problems and hospitalizations that Hank has endured since 2005 are all related to the impact that his ancient wounds have had on his health.

In typical fashion, Hank turned his health problems into an opportunity to help others. Because of his appreciation for the extension of his life that he received from his dual organ transplant, Hank successfully lobbied for the creation by the State of Washington of a "Life Saving Medal" that is awarded to either organ donors who actually donate an organ to another, or to their families if the organ donation is made at the time of the death of the donor. Hank has served as a patient advisor to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for the improvement of the VA health care system and, because of his thorough understanding of the VA health care system, Hank has helped numerous veterans who had no health insurance to become enrolled in the VA health care system.