

# Frostburg Lions gain top awards

FOR THE FROSTBURG EXPRESS

FROSTBURG — Two Frostburg Lions were honored with the highest award Lions Clubs International awards for their service to the Frostburg community. Jake Falinger and Joe Mills received the Melvin Jones Award, named for the founder of Lions International.

The awards, issued by the Illinois-based Lions International, were presented to Mills and Falinger by Frostburg Lions Vice President Lion Edge Deuel and Regional Representation Lion Stephen Finger of the LaVale Lions Club.

Deuel said, "When we look back over the years, two names stand out in the history of the Frostburg Lions Club, Lion Joe and Lion Jake. Each of you has made significant contributions to the Frostburg community, and to the Frostburg Lions Club."

Mills joined the organization in August 1956, holding many offices and committee chairmanships through the years. With respect to Lions activities, he has nearly perfect attendance for 52 years. "An amazing accomplishment in and of itself," said Deuel. Mills is retired from the Kelly-Springfield Tire Company, once located in Cumberland.

"Oh, we've had some good times," said Mills. "But I think

helping out around town, and helping others in the area, is the best award a Lion can get." Mills, who continues with his perfect attendance was recently awarded yet another year of perfect attendance for 2007-08 year.

"Lions is a good organization," said Mills. "We're always there. We Serve is more than a motto"

Falinger, reminisced some and told stories of his and Joe's exploits over the years. "You wouldn't believe some of the things we've done," he said. "Why we even chained a fellow Lions car to a tree one night."

Jokes and fun aside, Falinger said, "Helping people is our greatest award, knowing that you have helped someone, that makes it all worth while."

Falinger joined the group in April 1964. He owns the Hotel Gunter and has been involved in construction most of his professional career.

The two honored Lions told stories of fundraisers, community service projects, and other club activities that have occurred during their tenure as Frostburg Lions. "We had a few projects go bust," said Mills. "But more," returned Falinger, "went off without a hitch."

People in the community can visit a permanent display of Frostburg Lions memorabilia on the ground floor of the Hotel Gunter.