



The August Festival Committee proudly presents our parade Grand Marshall for 2026 James "CHICO" Hernandez

Chico is 35 year Washburn resident and he has represented our town of Washburn since 1991 in Olympic Freestyle Wrestling, Olympic Greco-Roman Wrestling, World Sambo Wrestling,

North American Grappling Association Championships and National Senior Games Championships. Chico is the 2025 US National Senior Games Powerlifting Champion..

He proudly served with distinction 33 years in the US Army and US Army Reserves as a First Sergeant Combat Basic Training Instructor.

Hernandez was featured on a Wheaties box. The event took place at Madison Square Garden in New York City, where he was welcomed into the Wheaties family alongside Olympic gymnast Mary Lou Retton and golfer Tiger Woods. His accomplishments were further highlighted in national sports media, including a feature in CNN/SI's "Faces in the Crowd" section. This recognition extended to educational and regional publications, such as the Scholastic textbook Maine: America the Beautiful, where Hernandez was profiled in the "Famous Mainers" biographical dictionary. He also appeared in Discover Maine magazine, Maine's history publication Memories of Maine magazine, emphasizing his contributions to sports and regional heritage.

Chico was honored into the AAU Wrestling Hall of Fame, recognizing his extensive career and Maine's only inductee. He was also inducted into the Maine Sports Hall of Fame, the University of Maine at Presque Isle Athletic Hall of Fame, Reavis High School Legacy Hall of Fame, Latin America Martial Arts Hall of Fame, Action Martial Arts Magazine Hall of Fame, Illinois Wrestlers Hall of Fame and was named an American Pioneer of Sambo.

Chico is most proud of his family and being featured on the box of Wheaties.



The Washburn August Festival Committee is pleased to announce that "Deryle & Vicki Sponberg" have been selected as King & Queen of the 2026 Washburn August Festival.

Deryle moved to Washburn early in life and spent most of his childhood there. He graduated from Presque Isle High School and went on to earn a certificate in Civil Engineering from the University of Maine at Orono. He worked for the Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT) for 41 years, retiring in 2007. He then continued his engineering career as a consultant for T.Y. Lin International before retiring a second time.

Throughout the years, Deryle

has served the community on the local School Board, Planning Board, and Utilities District Board. He has been involved in numerous construction projects throughout Maine and continues to share his engineering expertise on local projects. Among his many accomplishments, Deryle is especially proud of the MDOT projects he worked on in Washburn, including the construction of the current bridge spanning the Aroostook River.

Vicki (Brown) Sponberg grew up in Washburn and graduated from Washburn High School. While raising her young children, she operated a daycare in her home. After her children entered school, she worked as both a Regular Education Technician and a Special Education Technician in the Washburn and Presque Isle school systems.

Over the years, Vicki has enjoyed freezing & canning vegetables from the family garden, as well as sewing, knitting, & other needlework. She remains active in her church & treasures spending time with her grandchildren.

Deryle and Vicki have two children, Angela (Scott) Wardwell and Gregory (Nicol) Sponberg who have blessed them with five granddaughters. Together, Deryle and Vicki enjoy tending their flower gardens, working around their home, and attending their grandchildren's activities.

The 2026 August Festival King & Queen will ride in a 2016 Chevrolet Corvette, courtesy of Harris & Ellen Nickerson.