

SADDLE BROOK FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

SADDLE BROOK HISTORICAL SOCIETY – APRIL 2015

THE HARRY REID WAY

I had been driving south on Saddle River Road when I noticed that a sign saying Harry Reid Way had been added to the Harrison Avenue signpost. I telephoned Harry and found that the addition had been made at the Annual Ambulance Corps Installation Dinner in February, 2014 when Mayor Chamberlain called a very surprised Harry Reid to the podium to acknowledge his many years of exceptional service to our community.

A lifetime resident, Harry was born in 1941 and attended Lincoln, Washington and Franklin Elementary Schools. He graduated Bergen Tech. in 1958 and joined our police force in 1966. In 1977, he was assigned to the Detective Bureau and was made Juvenile Officer. He stayed until he retired in 1997. At that time he was D/LT in charge of the bureau.

Harry's father had been a member of our Hook and Ladder Company for fifty-seven years, and the practice of community service was strongly revered in the Reid family. Harry recalls his Mother saying "If you want to live in a community, you need to serve it." Harry's mother worked for the Board of Education for thirty-two years. When she retired, she was in charge of all of the district's cafeterias. Harry was the first member of the Ambulance Corps Youth Squad when he was fifteen years old. The Volunteer Ambulance Corps was in its infancy at that time, having been founded in 1952 when VFW Post 3484 donated a 1952 Cadillac ambulance. The members of the VFW knew from their wartime experience that effective first aid and prompt transportation were essential.



He became a senior member when he was twenty-one and has been Corp's Captain for the last twenty-eight years. As of this coming May, he will be starting his fifty-ninth year of service.

Harry said “I am proud of the organization that I belong to, and my fellow volunteers are the finest bunch of men and women that you can know.” There’s something special about people like Harry, the other Volunteer Ambulance Corps members, the Volunteer Fire Department members and all of the others who freely donate their time and talent towards the betterment of Saddle Brook. On behalf of a grateful community, I thank Harry and all of those who volunteer or serve with distinction.

Township Historian: Jack Wasdyke

