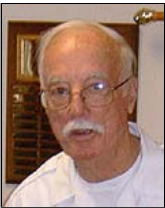


KRUTHERS AND CROSBY: 50 YEARS OF SERVICE



In 1957, mouth-to-mouth resuscitation had just been introduced, Cadillacs were state-of-the-art in ambulances and Bill Crosby and Bob Kruthers joined the Fanwood Rescue Squad.

Fifty years later, on June 3, 2007, the squad honored Mr. Crosby and Mr. Kruthers for five decades of service with a brunch and speeches at the squad headquarters they helped build.

“When I first started,” recalled Mr. Kruthers, “I thought gee, look at me. Look at what I’m doing. But as the years went by, I came to realize I was doing God’s work.”

Mr. Kruthers has been the squad’s chaplain and treasurer since 1967. Mr. Crosby, who has been in poor health, was not present. He was the squad’s president and captain at various points through three decades, and he trained and mentored dozens of new members. In 1977, he was one of the ground-breakers for the squad’s current headquarters building at 123 Watson Road. His wife, Marie, and daughter, Carol Baker, represented him at the brunch.

“The rescue squad was like my dad’s second child,” said Mrs. Baker. “Between the squad and the fire department, he was constantly in and out.”

Fanwood Borough Council President Katherine Mitchell (right) and Councilwoman Donna Dolce presented Mr. Kruthers and Mr. Crosby with commemorative plaques made from the Fanwood Oak. The massive oak tree had to be cut down for safety reasons in 1996, but it is still a symbol of the borough and its wood has been preserved.

“We don’t give too many of these out,” Ms. Mitchell said. “We really appreciate all you’ve done for our town.”

In addition to current members of the squad, life members Harry Mee, Jim Russell, Jim Spencer and Jim Stewart attended the brunch.

“My father really wanted to be here,” said Mrs. Baker, who had just come from visiting her father at Overlook Hospital. She told a story that she said summed up Mr. Crosby’s commitment to the squad.

“On my wedding day in 1977, a rescue squad call went out. It was during the reception. Suddenly, about half the guests disappeared to respond to the call. It was at a house somewhere in Fanwood. The members all showed up in their formal wear. Dad had on a tuxedo with a ruffled shirt. The patient asked, ‘Do you guys always show up in tuxedos?’”

The group wished Mr. Crosby a speedy recovery.

Mr. Kruthers made 116 calls last year and is up to 43 calls this year.

Click a picture to enlarge.



Bob reminisces for the group. Bob has seen a lot out there.



EMT Ed Sargent, Life Member Bob Brennan and Bob Kruthers



Marie Crosby accepts the Fanwood Oak plaque on Bill’s behalf



Bob Kruthers shows off his Fanwood Oak plaque



Fanwood Rescue Squad lifers and their spouses



Bill Crosby’s daughter, Carol Baker, with stories about her dad