



CRAIG W. VEPREK

Foundation President, Rob Coombs noted that the "10th Anniversary Celebration provided a fitting backdrop to highlight the accomplishments, leadership and volunteer service of the Pt. Pleasant Foundation's Founding President, Craig W. Veprek." Mr. Veprek's unyielding support of children and his commitment to excellence has been on display for over 25 years through his work in local and national organizations, including the Pt. Pleasant Foundation. "We're proud to showcase Craig's contributions while honoring all members of that first organizing committee who started this Foundation and introduced the annual Alumni Hall of Fame Dinner to the Pt. Pleasant Community," he added.

When asked about the early planning stages, Mr. Veprek points out, "Jersey Mike's Subs offered to become the Foundation's first corporate sponsor. It's an honor to circle back to Peter and John Cancro to let them know that the foundation used the seeds of that first partnership to create an awesome ten year history dedicated to excellence in education in Pt. Pleasant Borough."

Mr. Veprek is a member of the Church in Brielle and a Deacon in the Dutch Reform Church. He is also a member of the NJ Society of Professional Engineers, as well as a former member of the Pt. Pleasant Borough High School Athletic Booster Association, Pt. Pleasant Planning Board, and the Pt. Pleasant Zoning Board. He is a former Exhaulted Ruler of the the Pt. Pleasant Elks and past District Deputy Exhaulted Ruler. He also served as an officer of the NJ State Elks Association, past State Chairman - Training; and past State Chairman - Government Relations.

Mr. Veprek's devotion to children and tireless involvement included hosting events for handicapped children, participating in the "Parade of Kids;" and supporting initiatives led by fellow Elks including those run by

his devoted friend Ed Magley, who headed Veterans Affairs. Mr. Veprek also hosted a public service television program entitled, "Down at the Elks" which promoted the goals and misson of the organization while sharing the lodge's community projects with the public during 18 episodes filmed live.

In true Elks tradition, he turned involvement in the community into service projects in which his entire family would participate. While discussing his induction into the Hall of Fame, Mr. Veprek shared, "I could not have done this work if it wasn't for my wife Marianne, who is my biggest supporter, and my four children. We operated as a team, and as a result every family member learned something important from the rich experiences we shared. I honestly believe my children grew up to become better adults as a result of our work on behalf of the Elks and other organizations. I'm very proud of all of them." The Veprek Team includes two daughters and son-in-laws, Janet and Ryan Magley and Diana and Kieran Moran; his sons, David and Paul Veprek; and his wonderful grandchildren, Jake, Lauren, Emma and Kate.

Mr. Veprek earned his BE in Marine Engineering from SUNY Maritime College and spent over thirty-three years with PSE&G leveraging his Environmental, Land Use and Construction regulatory experience in all the following areas: Project Management; Regulatory Analysis & Policy Development; Environmental Auditing; Licensing and Permitting Negotiation. More recently he served as Department Manager, Regulatory Compliance for Schoor DePalma. He received numerous achievement awards throughout his career, but Mr. Veprek simply points to an ability to manage projects during change as a key factor in achieving goals in any forum.

As Mr. Veprek refects on being the Founding President of the Foundation, he adds that "I feel fortunate to never have had a shortage of good volunteers. I'm thrilled the Foundation is continuing to make a difference to the school system. Leadership starts young; the recognition goes a long way; and these events which strengthen community participation in the Foundation's goals become opportunities to partner with our children. It's all great."

"The strength of the team has always been key for me," Mr. Veprek continued. "So I share this recognition with several individuals including founding partner Dave Kiely and others who believed in the mission of the Pt. Pleasant Foundation before it was even formed. I've always been surrounded by terrific people including Pt. Pleasant resident, Glen Henry, an incredible high energy go-to-guy who arrives with a sense of humor at the side of a friend always ready to execute on whatever it's going to take to win. I can't think of a better person to have traveled this path with; we had a lot of fun along the way. I can't think of a more inspiring supporter to share this honor with."