



**RICHARD J. MORRIS**  
**COMMUNITY INDUCTEE**

Richard Morris was born in Point Pleasant Hospital on Feb 8, 1941 and raised in the Morris Family Homestead with his older sister, Helen, and brother, David.

Rich began kindergarten in the Ocean Road School and graduated 8<sup>th</sup> grade in 1955. He attended high school in Point Pleasant Beach and graduated in 1959. Rich continued his education at Newark State College (now Kean University) and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1963. Point Pleasant Borough High School was just opening that year, and he was waiting at the door to begin his career. He spent 35 years as the woodshop teacher, and taught several years in the Adult Night School, teaching students who were pursuing their high school diplomas. Rich also spent several years teaching night classes in the “Little Carpenter School”, working with students with special needs. His years of teaching were not spent only in the classroom. There were Senior Class ski trips; band trips to the World’s Fair in Tennessee; the Mardi Gras in New Orleans; the Apple Blossom Festival in Virginia; trips to Canada; and the many trips to Disney World. Rich built sets for stage productions; flats for Junior Proms (back in the days when they were held in the gym); chaperoned Project Graduation; and was involved

in everything else that goes along with being the woodshop teacher. In 1988, he was honored with the Governor's Teacher Recognition Award for the high school; and in 1998, he was honored by the Senior Class as they dedicated that year's Safari to him.

In 1963, in the midst of graduating from college and starting his teaching career, Rich took the biggest step of his life and married his "High School Sweetheart", Sharon. Together they raised their family - Michele, Lauren, Jeffrey and Alison - all of whom graduated from Point Pleasant Borough High School. Their three daughters are elementary school teachers and their son is an architect. Rich and Sharon have seven grandchildren to whom they devote much time and love. Also in 1963, Rich became a member of the Point Pleasant First Aid Squad; he became a Life Member in 1978. His friendships there have lasted to this day.

In the year 2000, Rich was asked to speak to the Point Pleasant Historical Society about the "Morris Homestead". Soon after that, he became a member of the society and subsequently became the administrator of Historical Society Museum. He served on the Point Pleasant Cultural Affairs committee for several years and now serves on the Open space/Preservation committee. He is now working with a group of volunteers and friends and they have reconstructed the Bennett Log Cabin the new Riverfront Park.

Through a cooperative effort of the Historical Society and students and teachers from the high school, they are working to encourage young people to become interested in preserving local history, and Rich believes the journey is far from over. He has been inspired by his hometown and its people to give back through preserving its history and working with those interested in maintaining its family-oriented atmosphere.