

New York State Office for the Aging

Senior Citizen's Day Recognition

We would like to thank you for submitting nominations for the 2016 New York State Office for the Aging Senior Citizen's Day Recognition Event. Through an anonymous process, the Senior Advisory Council chose **Don Brooks from Greenwich and Ruth Scribner from Whitehall.**

Congratulations Mr. Brooks!



Much of my life has been volunteering, starting when I was a Boy Scout during the 2nd World War, collecting items for the war effort and much later as Neighborhood Commissioner for the Boy Scouts in Hurleyville, New York. I have been on the Board of Directors for American Cancer Society and the Board of Directors of Catholic

Charities in Saratoga, while also being a representative to Greenwich Interfaith Fellowship from St. Joseph's where I coordinate the Bereavement Ministry. I have been an instructor for AARP's Safe Driving Course for 10 years.

I was born in Malone, New York on February 4, 1932, moved to Ellenburg Center in 1937 and graduated in 1949 from Ellenburg Central. Attended Clarkson College for 2 years, transferred to Oswego State graduating in 1954. Drafted for the Korean Conflict, spent 2 years, and then started teaching Industrial Arts at Greenwich Central in 1956. After marrying Marcella "Teddy" Johnson, taught a year at Shaker High, received my Master's Degree in Guidance and moved to Fallsburgh Central in Sullivan County as a Guidance Counselor. On the GI Bill, I studied toward a Professional Diploma at Columbia University then after 3 years and two daughters, moved back to Greenwich as a counselor, retiring in 1987 after two more daughters and the death of Teddy in 1981 from lupus. I then became a part time Admissions Interviewer for Skidmore College for another 21 years. I married Mary Anne Brown on March 31, 1990 and gained two

step children and we have now celebrated our 25th. I was also in real estate.

My most extensive involvement has been with Greenwich Interfaith Fellowship, Inc. which began around 1988 as a representative from St. Joseph's. In 2004 Rev. Jim Patrick and I were given

the task of contacting Hannaford Markets to see if transportation could be arranged for seniors to do shopping. We made available our 1987, 14 passenger bus that was used only in the summer for Food for Kids program. Hannaford cooperated by making their conference room available with free coffee and donuts and \$50 a month to help with expenses. The transportation program grew to include rides for medical reasons. With donations necessary to cover expenses, it became obvious we needed to become a tax exempt organization. When I was VP and then President, we became incorporated then I did the application to become a 501(c)(3) which was approved. I started a golf tournament and coordinated it for 10 years which raises enough money to finance all that Greenwich Interfaith needs for the entire year without other fundraising. Last year someone else coordinated the tournament but I am still involved. During that same 10 year span, I also taught the Safe Driving class for AARP. I was successful in recruiting someone to take my place but I'm still qualified and function as a backup. It has been a good life and it's not over.



"Volunteering is infectious. Once a person has been involved, even in a small way, the person feels the benefit of helping someone else in need. You can't buy that type of satisfaction. It's also easier to have it related to some interests or skills that the person has. In that way it is destined to grow and become even more cherished."

