

John Stamler named Citizen of the Year

Union County Prosecutor John H. Stamler has been chosen as the 1986 Citizen of the Year by the Memorial General Development Foundation, according to Louis J. Giacona, Foundation president.

Stamler, who was re-appointed as prosecutor by Governor Thomas H. Kean in November, 1982, will be honored at a testimonial dinner on Friday, May 2, 1986 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town and Campus in Union.

"The Memorial General Foundation takes great pleasure in honoring John Stamler," Giacona said. "His outstanding contributions of his time and talents to enhancing the quality of life in Union County made him the Foundation's logical choice for this year's award recipient."

Proceeds from the event will go to help support the Cancer/Hospice program at Memorial General Hospital, and a permanent tribute to Stamler will be mounted at M.G.H.

A graduate of Lafayette College, Stamler received his law degree from Vanderbilt University School of Law. Some of his previous positions included serving as law clerk to the presiding judge of the Appellate Division of the Superior Court and as an associate of an Elizabeth law firm.

In 1969, he became a partner in Stamler and Kaczorowski, Esqs. in Scotch Plains. He also served as assistant prosecutor of Union County from December 1967 to September 1975, during which time he was director of the Union County Narcotic Strike Force.

Municipal prosecutor for the township of Scotch Plains for several years, Stamler was also an instructor at Union County College, Cranford, teaching contemporary problems in law enforcement and criminal law; as well as an adjunct professor at Kean College, Union, teaching the role of the prosecutor in the criminal justice system.

Stamler is a member of the New Jersey State, American and Union County Bar Associations, and a member of the County Prosecutors Association of New Jersey, where he served as a president in 1983-84. His other professional affiliations include: counsel for the New Jersey Narcotic Enforcement Officers Association and the Municipal Investigators Association of Union County, Shomrim Society of New Jersey, National District Attorneys Association, Supreme Court Statewide Speedy Trial Coordinating Committee, New Jersey Narcotic Enforcement Officers Association and



JOHN STAMLER

Municipal Investigators Association of Union County.

Among his many distinguished honors, Stamler was appointed by former Governor Brendan Byrne to the New Jersey Drug Abuse Advisory

Council in June, 1974 and by Governor Thomas H. Kean in March, 1985. He was also appointed by the president of the County Prosecutors Association to represent the association on the New Jersey Advisory Council on Elderly Abuse in June, 1985 and selected by the chairman of the council to serve as chairman of the legislation subcommittee.

Stamler resides in Scotch Plains with his wife Jeanne and his three sons Richard, Stephen and Gary.

For information and tickets contact the Memorial General Foundation, 1000 Galloping Hill Road, Union, at 687-1900, extension 2251.

Franks urges residents to join in Hands Across America

On Sunday, May 25, New Jersey will be one of sixteen states, coast to coast, to host "Hands Across America." During the day, more than 6 million Americans will join hands to form a human chain from California to the George Washington Bridge.

Assemblyman Bob Franks, who represents Fanwood and Scotch Plains in the New Jersey Assembly, is encouraging local residents to participate in the historic event.

"Hands Across America" is the latest project of USA for Africa, the group of artists and performers who successfully raised millions of dollars for the hungry in Africa. "Hands Across America", however, will raise funds and promote solutions to the problems of the hungry and homeless here in America.

"Just as New Jersey has taken the lead in America's economic recovery, I think it is only appropriate that we take a leading role in extending New Jersey's hand to those who have not shared in our prosperity," said Franks.

"I believe the significance of "Hands Across America" extends well beyond its short term ability to focus attention on two of the most difficult problems we face as a society. This event can become the biggest community volunteer activity in modern history. It will be remembered for many generations to come as a day when millions of Americans put aside their differences and joined together in celebration of the American spirit," Franks added.

"Hands Across America" is not a government sponsored event, and no tax money is involved. Instead, funds are being raised through a modest fee charged to those who participate in forming the line and

through private contributions and corporate sponsorship.

Plans call for the New Jersey portion of the national project to include a 90 mile route through 37 municipalities.

Assemblyman Franks indicated that individuals can sign up to join in the line by calling "Hands Across America" at 1-800-USA-9000 or by filling out coupons which will be available from various local merchants. Individuals will receive their line assignment two weeks before the event, which will match their zip code with the part of the 90 mile route closest to them.

Church groups, civic organizations and other associations of twenty five people or more interested in joining in the line as a group can call Mrs. Craig Hirshberg, at the New Jersey headquarters for "Hands Across America" in Newark at 877-9750.

Anyone interested in helping to organize "Hands Across America" can call Sharon Rosenfarb, the Union County coordinator, also at the New Jersey office, 877-9750.

"We need volunteers!" said Ann Cooper, Director of the New Jersey Division of "Hands Across America". "If you would like to get involved in this event, please call us."

"I urge everyone interested in this event to join me in lending whatever assistance they can to ensure a successful "Hands Across America" project on May 25th," said Franks.

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Lions hear surrogate stress will updating

"A will should be updated whenever there are changes in personal or domestic circumstances, as well as changes in Federal or State tax laws," advised Union County Court Surrogate Ann Conti before a regular meeting of the Fanwood Lions Club last week.

"Too many people believe that once made their will always will accomplish their desires after death," Mrs. Conti said. "This is not the case in too many instances where a period review with an attorney would have assured otherwise the fulfillment of the will's intent," the Surrogate warned.

Mrs. Conti stressed the importance of the relatively new "self-proving" will, where sworn statements by the person making the will and those witnesses signing it, avoids the need to call in the witnesses later to verify the document.



Fanwood Lions President James Grover (left) and program chairman Robert McCarthy present Union County Surrogate Ann Conti with a certificate of appreciation for her appearance before the local service organization last week.

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