

Biography

WALTER J. KEISS

As Burlington County Superintendent of Schools, Walt Keiss is perennially the man in the middle each year, as rising school costs and budgets become a public battleground. He has diligently served as the point man between the school districts and the decision makers in Trenton. Yet he has gained the respect of educators throughout Burlington County for his role in meeting these challenges.

But there is another side to Walter J. Keiss that seldom is mentioned . . .

Walt also has an outstanding record of community service, ranging from his involvement with the Burlington County Council of the Boy Scouts of America to the Drenk Behavioral Health Center.

That's not all. Walt's past and present exploits include membership on Catholic Charities Board of Directors, membership on the United Way Executive Committee and Board of Directors. He also holds volunteer positions on the Burlington County Advisory Council on Women and on the Burlington County Workforce Investment Board, is a lifetime member of the P.T.A, is a member of the Knights of Columbus, and is an Honorary Commander at McGuire Air Force Base.

Also inherent in Walt's activities is a clear dedication to programs and activities that benefit young people. One of his affiliations has been with the YMCA as a Youth Program Coordinator. He has also served as a hands-on Boy Scout counselor, working with Eagle Scout candidates. Then there is the Mount Laurel Township Athletic Association where he has served in the upper echelon as a Commissioner – and on the field – as a coach.

This may not be so surprising, since Walt Keiss' career, dating back to 1970 when he first stepped into a classroom, has focused on the education and development of young people. In fact, his resume will reflect memberships on two local Boards of Education where he resided: Delran and Mount Laurel.

In the eyes of the Volunteer Center, all of this strengthens his credentials, since the Center itself has rededicated itself to encouraging community service among Burlington County's youth.

We would be remiss if we did not mention some of his professional associations, because they certainly fill in a most impressive picture. For example, as Burlington County Superintendent of Schools, he is a Trustee of Burlington County College, and is a member of the boards of education at Burlington County Institute of Technology, and Burlington County Special Services School.

A former president of both the Burlington County School Boards Association and the Burlington County Education Association, his list of affiliations is a lengthy one. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of the New Jersey Association of School Administrators. Walt is an active member of the American Association of School Administrators; the Burlington County Association of School Administrators; the National School Boards Association; and the New Jersey School Boards Association. As a teacher and principal, he was very active in the National Education Association; the New Jersey Education Association; the New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association; and the Phi Delta Kappa Professional Fraternity.

A U.S. Navy veteran, Walt's teaching career began in Hainesport, where he ultimately became Principal and Acting Superintendent. From there, he went on to serve as the Superintendent of the Tabernacle district, and finally, in 2000, was chosen as County Superintendent.

In accepting the Volunteer Center's honor, Walt becomes the eighth recipient, and joins a distinguished list of past honorees, including Dr. Robert Messina, President of Burlington County College; Mary Wells, Director of Family Services of Burlington County; Millie Gama, Executive Director of the Burlington County Chamber of Commerce; Burlington County Freeholder Vincent R. Farias; and Dick and Doris Alaimo of Mount Holly; Robert V. Santare, President of Champion Fasteners; and former Burlington County Clerk Edward A. Kelly, Jr.

All that said and considered, the Volunteer Center is extremely proud to present this year's prestigious Lloyd Ritter Community Service Award to Walter J. Keiss of Mount Laurel.

His family, including wife, Sue, sons Brian, David and Kevin, and sister Sandy, will proudly accompany Walt as he accepts the 2006 Lloyd Ritter Community Service Award.

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