



JON PLUMER

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 42nd ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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Assembly Honors Poynette-Dekorra Firefighter as Hometown Hero

MADISON, WI – The Wisconsin State Assembly honored a resident of the 42nd Assembly District with its Hometown Hero Award during today’s session. Firefighter Ernie Koepp of the Poynette-Dekorra Fire Department was recognized for his over 50 years of service to the community. Koepp was nominated for this honor by Rep. Jon Plumer (R – Lodi).

“Ernie is the epitome of what a hometown hero is,” said Rep. Plumer. “It is rare to find an individual who has had such a long and meaningful impact on their community. The world would truly be a better place if we had more folks like Ernie.”

A lifelong resident of Poynette, Koepp joined the department in 1971 and has been a member ever since, including serving 16 years as the EMS Chief. He had initially attempted to join the department in 1969 after returning from 6 years of voluntary military service, but there were not any open spots on the department at the time.

Koepp has been an advocate for advancing emergency medical services in his community. He was an early proponent of establishing an EMS service in the village and was instrumental in the purchase of their first ambulance in 1977. Koepp was also a leading force in the early 2010s for getting AED machines into various locations in the community. AED machines can now be found in public buildings, churches, banks, and even the local grocery store.

Additionally, Koepp spent over two decades teaching EMT students at Madison College, including current Madison Fire Chief Steve Davis. He undoubtedly contributed to saving hundreds, if not thousands of lives, both directly in his work as a first responder and indirectly through his teaching and advocacy for the emergency medical services.

Koepp still serves as the department’s fire inspector and continues to drive on occasion, manage the radio, and do paperwork for the department. Additionally, he comes to the station nearly every day to help keep things tidy and to serve as a mentor to younger members of the department.

“On behalf of the 42nd Assembly District, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to Ernie for his years of service to the community,” said Rep. Plumer.

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