

Biography: Mr. Ernest Kraule

Ernest (Ernie) Kraule was born in San Francisco and moved to Saratoga with his family as a young boy. He attended local schools and at the age of 21 became a volunteer firefighter with the Saratoga Fire District. Concurrently, he worked in his family's business; Kraule's Jewelers, eventually owning and operating the company.

While serving as a volunteer, Ernie held every rank in the Saratoga Fire District. He was then hired as the first paid Fire Chief of the Saratoga Fire District, serving in the position for 30 years. He has extensive experience in fire department administration, operations, finance and interfacing with government agencies and special districts.

Chief Kraule was instrumental in transforming the Saratoga Fire District staffed by primarily by volunteers, to an organization employing full-time firefighters. He also established the Paramedic Program and maintained the Volunteer Firefighter Program. Throughout his career he emphasized fire safety and prevention, as demonstrated by his development of the Early Warning Alarm System, promotion of the City of Saratoga's Class A Roof and Water Supply and Storage Ordinances, plan check review of building construction, and administration of the California Fire Code. He participated in Measure F, which successfully passed to fund construction of the fire station located on the corner of Saratoga Avenue. He coordinated the planning and building design, and after retiring, served as the project manager from 2002-2004, overseeing construction of the new fire station.

During his career, he served on the Santa Clara County Fire Chief's Association (two-term President), the Santa Clara County Radio Communications Interoperability Committee (Chair), the Mutual Aid Response and Regional Fire Service Delivery Committee and the State of California Fire Alarm Advisory Board. He is currently a member of the Saratoga Rotary Club and the Saratoga Men's Club, and serves on the Boards of Directors of the Saratoga Historical Foundation and Our Lady of Fatima.

Chief Kraule, Retired, resides in the Saratoga Fire District with his wife, Paula.