

Victory Trail Dedication Revisited

On February 7, Mark Hurwitz and his family from Springfield, accepted a commemorative Victory Trail Plaque in honor of their deceased father Murray Hurwitz. The recognition included a piece of the dedication ribbon, two commemorative patches, one from the Boy Scouts of America and the other from Liberty Hall. and a Victory Trail Medal. All the medals are numbered; the Hurwitz family was given 11-76 which commemorates 1976, the year Murray Hurwitz founded the Scouting's participation in the Victory Trail hike, and 2011, the year the Victory Trail has re-started after several years of disuse as a Scouting program. Mark is currently the national president of the Brigade of the Revolution -an historic reenactment organization. Mr. Hurwitz gave a speech on the Battle of Springfield to those gathered at the Munsee roundtable.

Over the years, there have been seven versions of the Victory Trail hike and medal spanning the three Councils in which the territory has belonged; Union County Council, Watchung Area Council and Patriots' Path Council. Scouting volunteer David DuBois of Watchung Mountain District constructed a shadowbox containing each version of the medal with its corresponding council shoulder strip.

The Victory Trail was officially rededicated on November 12th. City of Elizabeth Mayor J. Christian Bollwage cut the ribbon and hiked from the port to downtown with the Scouts.