



City of De Pere Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lieutenant ends 39-year run with De Pere Fire Department

De Pere, WI: A nearly four-decade journey with the City of De Pere Fire Department will end today for Lieutenant Todd Hendricks. Hendricks has served as a firefighter and paramedic in various roles for the City for the past 39 years.

In 1979, he began his run as a volunteer with De Pere's fire department. After 11 years in this volunteer role, he officially became a career firefighter and served in this capacity with the City of De Pere for the past 28 years.

In all honesty, this long tenure as a firefighter and paramedic has been incredibly rewarding, but also incredibly unexpected.

"I think this career found me, I didn't find it," Hendricks said, noting he was once a supervisor at a local business in his younger years out of college. Once he started volunteering with the fire department, however, it became apparent his life's calling was waiting elsewhere.



"It was something as I volunteered and got more and more involved with, it just became clear this was what I was meant to do," Hendricks said.

In the end, this change in career path led him to serve and help literally thousands of local residents in their times of need, injury and distress. Looking back, it's hard for Hendricks to define any calls that were the most memorable – and that's simply because he views them as equals.

"We take care of so many calls a day that one just kind of turns into the next. Kid calls are always tough. That certainly stands out, and when you're helping someone with cardiac arrest and they open their eyes and say "thank you" on the way to the hospital, it sticks with you. But whether someone is going into cardiac arrest or sprained an ankle, it's all just as important to them. You're there comforting them and helping them.

"They're all important when it comes down to it."

And, for Hendricks, it was all very special as well.

"It was a pleasure to serve the citizens of De Pere, and an honor. I'd do it all again in a heartbeat ... if I was a lot younger."

For more information on the De Pere Fire Department, visit de-pere.org.

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Caption: Lieutenant Todd Hendricks stands in the De Pere fire station on his final day with the department.