



## "A Short Story" About Dr. Roth and a Young Man



Russell G. Hayden and Dr. Irvin Roth

One day in 1969, a young man was hitch hiking his way to San Jose, California, on Highway 280. Irvin Roth, a Jewish Professor at Foothill Junior College, picked him up and asked two questions:

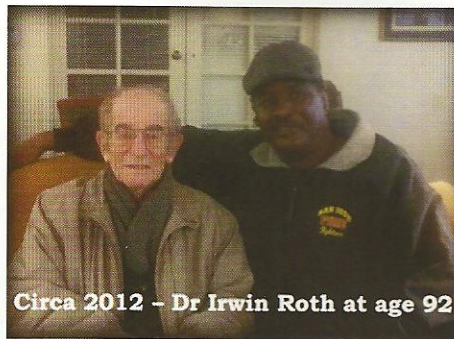
1. Where are you going?
2. Are you in school or working?

After hearing "NO" to the first two questions, Professor Roth asked a third question, "Would you like to join the fire service?" Aimlessly going through life with no job, no place to call home and absolutely no hope or thoughts of a career, the young man quickly answered, "Yes." He simply figured that the fire service was better than nothing. Dr. Roth immediately changed his route and took that young man back to the Foothill College campus, where he taught, and stopped at the Los Altos Fire Station.

There, the young man was instructed to fill out an application to become a student firefighter.

The pay rate was \$25/month, plus housing. The young man had never been in a fire station in his life and had never known a firefighter. This miraculous change of events was as overwhelming to him as it was unexpected.

Shortly thereafter, this young man was offered an interview, then a position as a student firefighter. Later he became a summer relief firefighter and finally was offered a position as a full-time firefighter with the Los Altos Fire Department.



The promise that he made to himself was to do just as Dr. Roth had done: To help young people in their pursuit of a career within the fire service, regardless of color, gender or background. After a successful 34-year career within the fire service, I am now able to vigorously pursue my two passions:

- Providing future firefighters with the preparedness, resources and motivation to become successful recruits.
- Assisting fire departments in the realization of their diversity recruitment goals.

### Lessons Learned:

1. Miracles do occur, but they happen more often if you are mentally prepared to recognize them, and you immediately seize the moment.

2. Preparation enables you to capitalize upon opportunities presented.

3. Going the extra mile allows you to reach your goals at a more rapid pace.

4. Awareness of opportunities is the most critical step toward a successful career.

*by Russell G. Hayden – 34 Years  
Fire Service (Retired)  
Firefighter Diversity Recruitment  
Council Recruit Officer, Public  
Education Officer, Company  
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Dr. Irvin Roth, WWII Army veteran, and his wife, Maureen, moved to BridgePoint in 2012. Recently, they celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary!

These lovebirds are always staying together and enjoy participating at our social events. Thank you for being such great neighbors!

We would like to salute Irvin and all veterans at BridgePoint who help to protect our freedoms. Please review page#3 for more info on the celebration of the Veterans Day.

