



# OCEAN CITY BEACH PATROL

## NEWS RELEASE

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**NEVER, NEVER SWIM ALONE!!!**

**SWIMMING NEAR A LIFEGUARD COULD SAVE A LIFE! YOURS!!**

### **Captain Schoepf Relay set for June 12**

The Ocean City Beach Patrol's Annual Captain Schoepf Relay will be held 10 a.m. Sunday, June 12 starting at 7<sup>th</sup> Street. Captain Schoepf served as Captain of the Ocean City Beach Patrol from 1987-1996, although his leadership role on the beach patrol was quite extensive, beginning with his appointment as "Assistant" to Captain Craig in the late 1960s. Every year in June, in honor of his many years of service to OCBP, a relay is held where a classic steel rescue buoy is passed along by alumni guards and current lifeguards. The relay begins at 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Captain Schoepf's old stand, with a run to the end of Ocean City followed by a swim the entire length of Ocean City. The buoy is returned to the beach and run back to the starting point at 7<sup>th</sup> Street. The direction of the relay is contingent upon the direction of the ocean current on the morning of the relay. Sergeants and crew chiefs on quads cover each stand as each SRT takes a turn running or swimming the buoy along the beach toward the inlet or the Delaware line (depending on the current that day). This honorary relay begins with a prayer and has been led off by various people that have been influenced by Captain Schoepf such as his daughter, his wife, as well as former beach patrol members that served under him.

Each year either a family member or OCBP alumni begin the starting leg of the relay. This relay is open to the Ocean City Beach Patrol as well as anyone that has worked for the beach patrol in the past or has a personal connection to Captain Schoepf. The relay takes place during the regular workday beginning at 10 a.m. Visitors to Ocean City have enjoyed watching this relay as the vintage buoy travels up the beach and then back down in the ocean with the many exchanges along the way. It usually takes approximately five hours for the buoy to make the full circle from 7<sup>th</sup> Street and back.

### **Background Information on Captain Schoepf:**

In 1950 George Schoepf applied for a job and was tested thoroughly by Captain Craig. After serving admirably for a few years, he was advanced to sergeant, then to lieutenant. Ocean City had grown by expanding the city limits from 15th Street to 24th Street, then to 41st Street and finally to the Delaware State line, a distance of 10 miles. Obviously, the patrol had to be increased to cover the additional distances and greater influx of visitors. Additional supervision was also needed. With the approval of the Mayor and City Council, a new position was created, "Assistant to the Captain." It was his idea to divide the patrol into crews. The idea of an annual crew competition was also Captain Schoepf's. The competition was a good public relations tool with visitors who had a chance to see the various abilities of the guards in running and swimming. In 1980 the Ocean City Beach Patrol formed a local chapter of the United States Life Saving Association. Three years later under the direction of chapter president George Schoepf, the Ocean City chapter began hosting regional competitions. Captain Schoepf was given the complete responsibility for setting up and running the USLA Mid-Atlantic Championships and he did the job extremely well. When Craig retired in 1987, Schoepf was appointed captain by the Mayor and City Council. He served the Town of Ocean City well for over 40 years.



KEEP YOUR FEET IN THE SAND..... UNTIL THE LIFEGUARD'S IN THE STAND!

