

## **Arthur W. Ospelt**

Arthur W. Ospelt began his 45 year career of public service in 1965 when he was first elected to the Phoenix Central School District Board of Education.

A lifelong resident of Pennellville, Ospelt graduated with a BA in Agriculture from Canton University in 1954, and went to work for Swift and Company Meat Packing until he was called for military duty in 1956. He served two consecutive years in the United State Army with the military police.

Ospelt continues to own the farm he began in 1955, originally as a dairy farm. Today, the farm includes horses and hay. Ospelt raises Percheron horses and has lent them to many parades.

From 1958 until 1971, Ospelt also owned a feed grinding business to compliment his farm.

Following five years of service on the Phoenix School Board, Ospelt became the supervisor for the Town of Schroepfel, a position he held for 20 years. At that time Oswego County Government was comprised of a Board of Supervisors, hence; Ospelt's career in county and town government began simultaneously. While serving the county Board of Supervisors, which later changed to a Board of Legislators, Ospelt held the position of Majority Leader and went on to become the Legislature Chairman.

While leading the Town of Schroepfel, Ospelt devoted himself to assuring the residents had a park to enjoy. He, along with Ray Chesbro and Chuck Ely, worked day and night to make the park a reality. Now known as the William J. Farley Park, it includes a playground, ball fields and a tennis court.

Ospelt left the Board of Legislators in 1978 and began a 12-year career as the Oswego County Highway Superintendent. During his tenure, he was instrumental in the development and construction of the county's nationally acclaimed solid waste system.

Ospelt left the highway department to become the county administrator in 1990 and served in the position until his retirement in 1995.

While serving as the administrator, Ospelt led the legislature in the construction of a third floor onto the new Public Safety Center. Met with controversy at the time, the third floor proved to be a wise and cost-saving decision. Along with the new jail, the center is home to the county courts, Probation Department, E-911 Center and the office of the District Attorney.

Ospelt's retirement was short-lived as he won election to the Oswego County Legislature in 1997 and continues to serve the residents of District 12. Ospelt serves as the chairman of the Legislature's Finance and Personnel Committee and is a member of the Economic Development and Planning Committee, as well.

Since 1984, Ospelt has served as a member of the Oswego County Industrial Development Agency Board.

Ospelt is a member of St. Stephen's Church in Phoenix and serves as a director for the New York State Percheron Association. He is also a member of the North Country Draft Horse Club and the New York State Draft Horse Club.

Ospelt married the former Marianne Nolan in 1956. They have two children, four grandchildren and one great grandchild.