

THE CHARLES R. MCFARLAND BRIDGE

Along with the first Mayor of West Haven City, Robert W. Holmes, Charles McFarland helped to bring about the City's incorporation which was effective July 1, 1991. He was elected in 1991 to serve as a City Council Member and re-elected every four years until he chose not to run again at the end of 2003.

At the City Council meeting held November 2, 1994 Council Member Charles McFarland made the motion to approve submitting the application for ISTEA Grant Funds to be used for the development of the West Haven City River Parkway. The motion was seconded by Council Member Ken Baldwin. The vote was unanimous.

That application was completed and submitted on February 2, 1995. Approval of the application and awarding of funds finally came in November 1998 to mark the beginning of a long journey of countless hours of labor and dedication to see a dream come true. The hours of labor and the undying dedication would turn out to be that of Charles R McFarland.

Even after Charlie chose not to run for re-election in November 2003, he did not cease the long hours and dedicated efforts required to see the fulfillment of his dream.

On a beautiful sunny afternoon, June 4, 2005, many gathered at the new river parkway to celebrate the fruits of his commitment. Charlie thought that everyone was there to dedicate the newly installed bridge that now spanned the Weber River to allow view seekers to cross from one side of the pathway to the other. But the sun filled day found tear filled eyes as Council Member Jeni Canter announced that they were there to dedicate "The Charles R. McFarland Bridge" in his honor.

Stunned from the announcement, as Charlie hit the edge of the bridge with a bottle of champagne, a stray piece of broken glass hit his face and broke his glasses causing a cut serious enough to require stitches. Now he literally carries with him the memory of that beautiful day when his labor of love was honored.

It took many hands to make Charlie's dream a reality, but it took Charlie to keep those hands going. Thank you Charlie for not giving up!