

RESIDENT OF THE MONTH



Curtis A. Winkle

Curtis was born in Nebraska, went to 1st and 2nd grade in Lingle Wyoming, then moved to Rapid City SD, then to Philip SD, then to Platte SD and then to Huron SD where he completed High School and College. Upon completion of College, he got married and within a few weeks he was on a bus to FT Bliss TX for basic training. Curtis and his wife, Connie, have 5 children, 2 daughters and 3 sons. They have 22 grandchildren and great grandchildren. Curtis's father was a Presbyterian minister and when Curtis was eight years old, he took on the assignment as Sunday School Missionary for Western South Dakota, later becoming the Executive Director for South Dakota. His parents had five children, four boys and one girl. His parents were singers and played the piano. Music was a big part of their life. Curtis played the French Horn, while his siblings played the trombone, baritone, cello, tuba, and they all sang in choirs.

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Curtis says the most unusual part of his early life was when he lived in Phillip, SD. His father traveled most of the time, so as the oldest-now in 5th grade, Curtis took on the responsibility of feeding the three cows, pigs, chickens, and a horse. Curtis also milked the cows. His family lived on the outskirts of town where they had a barn, a creek, forests, and hills. Curtis learned how to swim in the creek. He says it was a great life. Curtis was in the 6th grade when his father became the pastor of a church in Platte, SD. He learned how to play the French Horn and was active in track and football. Curtis became an Eagle Scout in Platte. He also delivered the Sioux Falls Newspaper. His senior year in high school, his family moved to Huron SD, as his father accepted the position of Executive Director for the Presbyterian Church.

Curtis was accepted into the Army Band and spent time in Ft. Knox, TN and in the Aberdeen Proving Grounds in Maryland. Then, was sent on emergency orders to Panama where he found that he had been sent to Ft. Gulick to integrate the Puerto Rico band. After retirement from the Army, Curtis and his wife took teaching jobs in Pierre, SD. He taught General Science and Connie taught English and Theater. In the summers, Curtis went to Graduate School at the U of Minn. He started searching for a Counselor position. Curtis was offered the position of Director of Testing and Guidance for Pierre Public Schools. After a few years, he was offered the position of Instructor/Counselor in the School of ED at the U of Minn., which he accepted and moved to Minneapolis MN. In the Fall of '66 Curtis took the position of Director of Advisement and Certification at the School of Ed in Terre Haute, IN. Curtis spent 30 years at ISU, retiring in 1997.

In 2006, Curtis and Connie moved to WV. Shortly after, Curtis became the Resident Association treasure. After four years he stepped down to take care of his wife. Upon Connie's death, Curtis accepted the position of Vice President. When the current president died, Curtis served as President for three years. After stepping down from that role, He served on the Library, Memorial, and Marketing committees. Curtis served two years as chair of the Memorial Committee. He still serves on the Library and Marketing Committees. Curtis has always enjoyed reading. He always sang in choirs and a few quartets. Curtis took up running in 2006 and a few years later switched to bicycling as his knee was giving him trouble.