



RESIDENT OF THE MONTH

Jan Harmening

Yes, I am Hoosier by birth as exhibited by eating noodles on mashed potatoes. Growing up in Terre Haute, I attended Davis Park elementary school (that school has been torn down), Woodrow Wilson Junior High, it remains standing and graduated from Wiley High School (it has been torn down!) I graduated from DePauw University School of Nursing with a bachelor's degree, my residence hall was destroyed by fire and torn down. Seems to be a pattern which, fortunately, has not continued.

My father was on the faculty and in administration at Rose Polytechnic Institute and on the Terre Haute School board and President of the states school board association, how else could I get through school! My brother John is four years older than me and was my hero and a graduate of Rose. I'm sure there were times he wanted his little sister to refrain from hanging around him and his friends. My mother had been a teacher of French, a language I was never able to conquer. She was always active in many community organizations as was my father. Their commitment to Terre Haute set a high bar for John and me to contribute to our community.

Unfortunately, both my mother and brother suffered from Alzheimer's disease.

After graduating from DePauw, I worked at Union Hospital as a staff nurse for the summer, never knowing I would return to it later in my career.

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WHY WESTMINSTER?



I decided to go to the Chicago area as a nurse, probably because my “good” friend from DePauw Lou Harmening, was pursuing a graduate degree in the area. We had met on a blind date to play bridge with my sorority sister (Alpha Phi) and his fraternity brother (Phi Delta Theta). And Yes, we played during Chapel, but it turned out to be a good decision since we were married one year after graduating. While in Chicago, I lived with four sorority sisters in the maids’ quarters of a house on the north side of Chicago. While living in the Chicago area for 8 years, I worked as a staff nurse at Evanston Hospital in Evanston on a medical surgical unit and orthopedic unit. During the eight years in the area, I also worked as a school nurse, camp nurse, and taught in an LPN program and had two children. Lou and I have two sons, Jeff born during the blizzard of 1967 and Andy two years later on April 1st! During the now storm, neighbors had a plan to pull me out on a toboggan to the hospital, a plan which didn’t appeal to me. The other solution was to have Lou deliver me at home, which didn’t appeal to either of us. I was able to get to the hospital between snowstorms.! Jeff is now the CEO of General Mills and Andy is CEO of Associated Bank. The boys, my daughters-in-law, and four grandchildren are most important in my life. Both sons grew up in Terre Haute and have retained their midwestern values. Our family moved to Terre Haute in 1970 when Lou accepted a position as registrar and faculty in Humanities Department at Rose Polytechnic Institute.

Lou and I moved to Westminster Village in August 2022, and while the move from the home we had designed was difficult, we knew it was the right decision. We still enjoyed playing bridge and golf, but my tennis ended after two knee replacements. Unfortunately, we had to make numerous trips to the Mayo Clinic for treatment for Lou and he passed away in March 2024. I had the “opportunity” to experience health care from a patient’s perspective and returned home three weeks before Lou died. We had hoped for more time to enjoy the many activities and people, but long-time friends and new friends have made this time special. The staff of Westminster Village have been so helpful and supportive during our difficult year. While my formal career as a nurse is over, I hope to be able to contribute to the community and friends and continue to read mysteries.

He retired in 2001 as emeritus associate professor of American Literature. After moving to Terre Haute, I volunteered in several clinics and returned to Indiana University in Indianapolis and graduated with a master’s degree in nursing with a minor in teaching while completing my degree, I joined the nursing and leadership and management as well as serving as chairperson of the undergraduate department. During this time, I commuted to Indiana University Bloomington and completed my doctorate in Higher Education Administration with a minor in nursing. Also, during this time our sons were busy with little league, basketball, tennis, golf, and soccer. We played tennis as a family while they played in tennis tournaments. My family requested we never have any more crock pot meals!

I joined Union Hospital in 1986 as Vice President of Patient Care and Chief Nursing Officer, a position I held for 16 years. I enjoyed seeing some of my previous students in successful positions in the hospital. During this time, I served as President of VNA/Hospice for 16 years and state President of IONE- Indiana Organization of Nurse Executives. Currently, I serve on the Goodwill Board, President of Maryvale Board (senior living apartments in WTH), Terre Haute Rotary Club and am a member of Centenary United Methodist Church.