



RESIDENT OF THE MONTH

Jerry McIntyre

Jerry grew up on a family farm in Greene County between Linton and Bloomfield, just fifteen minutes from where he lives today. His family farmed the “White River Bottoms,” and some of his earliest memories include trips to Terre Haute, which he recalls as “a hub” for politicians, celebrities, and events. His grandmother often visited Davis Gardens—long before Westminster Village existed—to buy plant starters. Although he was raised outside the city, Jerry has always considered himself “a sort of Terre Hautian.”

During Jerry’s early childhood, his father was away serving in World War II. He lived with his grandparents as his mother helped run the farm. After the war, Jerry’s father moved into surveying and later politics—leaving farming behind. Jerry will tell you he wasn’t destined for farm life either, but it taught him the value of hard work. He began driving tractors and trucks long before most kids knew what a clutch was. When his high school finally added driver’s education in his

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senior year, he and most of the boys already had plenty of driving experience.

Jerry decided early on to become a teacher. He attended Indiana State Teachers College (now ISU) and began his career in Bloomington and Monroe County, teaching for twelve years before becoming the Assistant Principal of Bloomington High School North in 1972.

During these years, Jerry was also deeply involved in church life. An active member of several congregations, he was once asked to serve as the interim pastor at Kingsley Memorial United Methodist Church when they were without leadership. He stepped in for about seven years, modestly saying, “I could only occupy the pulpit, but I couldn’t fill it.”

Jerry later served as principal in Switzerland County and at Clarksville High School. In 1980, he returned to Terre Haute as principal of Terre Haute South High School, and he spent his final thirteen years before retirement as the Director of Personnel for the Vigo County School Corporation.

Throughout his career, Jerry’s greatest joy was always the students.

It might sound cliché,” he says, “but the students are what brought me back every single day.”

“He has kept in touch with at least one student from each school—mostly through Facebook—and often jokes that after working with adults, he quickly learned that “kids are just more fun!”

Jerry is the proud father of three children—Melinda, Melanie, and Mark—and two bonus daughters, Julie and Jennifer. His family includes nine grandchildren and fifteen great- grandchildren who once he retired kept him busy at basketball games, track meets, cross-country races, and band concerts. He calls himself a “professional grandpa.”

When deciding where to move, he compared four communities and found Westminster offered the best combination of amenities, atmosphere, and friendly faces. He already knew many residents from ISU and the local education community, making the transition feel natural.

Today, Jerry enjoys musical performances, visits the Boot City Opry, and spends time with his two beloved cats, Mickey and Mr. Peabody. Active, friendly, and full of stories, Jerry continues to bring warmth and connection to Westminster Village.