



Curtis E. Hartenberger

July 22, 1940 - March 26, 2010

Curtis E. Hartenberger, 69, Topeka, died at Aldersgate Village on Friday, March 26, 2010. He was born in Newton, Kansas on July 22, 1940, the son of Earl and Opal Ayers Hartenberger. Curtis is survived by a daughter, Faith Treadwell (Bennie); a son, Mark Hartenberger; two grandchildren, Gavin Ward and Ethan Hartnberger; two nieces, Erin Taylor and Renee Winterbourne; a sister, Madelyn Winterbourne, of Aptos CA; and aunt, Olive Boone; and numerous cousins. Curtis attended public schools in Newton and earned his Bachelors degree in social work from Bethel College. He received his Masters degree from Florida State University in Tallahassee, with a major in social work administration. He began his professional life working in the Harveyville Welfare Service. He served the State of Kansas in a variety of positions in SRS and at one time was the Director of Alcohol and Drug Service. He was also the instructor of staff development for M.A.P. of Kansas (Model Approach of Partners in Parenting). He was a consultant to the Child Welfare Institute in Atlanta GA and ended his professional career with the Childrens' Alliance of Kansas. Curtis loved children, and served twenty years on the Topeka 501 School Board. During his fifth and last term, he was Board President. He was influential in eliminating physical punishment of children in the Topeka Public Schools. He also was president of the board at Catholic Social Service in Topeka, as well as a past president of the board of Let's Help, Inc. and was a member of the local Civitan Club. He was a member of First Lutheran Church. He distinguished himself by the donation of sixty gallons of blood to the

Topeka Blood Bank for which he received an award. Curtis was a renaissance man. His garden was a thing of beauty; each blossom was perfect in its setting in a blaze of color. He worked with wood and a friend said, "Curtis talks to wood, whether it was to make a beautiful clock, or to talk a tree into growing." A gourmet chef, he specialized in French cuisine and especially enjoyed creating ethnic German dishes for his friends. His sauerbraten with gingersnap gravy and German potato salad were legendary. An avid art collector, Curtis also created stained glass masterpieces, journeying to juried competitions and taking first place awards. He was also a musician and enjoyed playing the harpsichord. Curtis Hartenberger loved his Topeka Community and he served it well. Funeral service for Mr. Hartenberger will be at 1 p.m. Tuesday, March 30, 2010 at First Lutheran Church. Private inurnment will follow. Memorial contributions are suggested to First Lutheran Church and/or Let's Help, Inc. sent in care of Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Rd, Topeka KS 66614.

Tribute Wall



“ *Curtis E. Hartenberger*

January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM



“ *Faith and Mark, please know that you and all of Curtis' family and loved ones are in my prayers.*

I met Curtis in 1980 and knew that he was a special person within minutes of our conversation about child welfare. I also loved that he always wanted to talk about food too. What an adventuring diner he was! He always insisted that dining be a part of the planning for our Region VII Child Welfare Training Resource meetings.

When I later began working for the Child Welfare Institute we were able to renew our friendship and professional relationship. Curtis worked so hard to promote excellence in foster and adoptive parent preparation, selection, and training. His legacy is all the love that is poured out to abused and neglected children throughout Kansas. His life touched so many.

With deep condolence,

*Heather Craig-Oldsen
Ponca, Nebraska*

Heather Craig-Oldsen - March 31, 2010 at 12:16 PM

PW

“ I wish to send my condolences to Mr. Hartenberger's family and loved ones. I enjoyed visiting with Curtis while he was a member of the Topeka Board of Education. In fact, I owe a second tour of duty with 501, during my fifth year of service to the district. He and Kay Meadows were able to keep 5 social work positions alive and well, which later went on to become the Kid Connection Program. We were able to develop several after school tutorial programs in the elementary schools, and also bring in the James P. Comer Human Development Model for student planning and management systems. Curtis was well versed in operating on boards, and was never intimidated by the powers that be. I will forever be in his debt, as both a fellow social worker, and more importantly as my friend. God bless you folks for allowing Curtis to be shared by so many. He was a good person and a great organizer. He will be missed. Incidentally, I am now approaching my 30th year in the district as a school social worker.

Preston R. Williams - March 30, 2010 at 04:56 PM

JB

“ In this day and age of vitriolic public debate, Curtis was a welcome oasis from the vacant sound and fury. He conducted himself as a public servant as he live, with compassion, verve, and intellectual integrity. We will miss him. Our thoughts are with your family.

Joe Scranton & Marty Bloomquist - March 29, 2010 at 02:34 PM

MO

“ Curtis was an important colleague and teacher for me when I was an SRS trainer. We had many meaningful conversations and lots of laughs and good times. He was a great mentor and friend. Many times I have passed wisdom along that Curtis gave me those many years ago; who he was as a social worker has continued to reverberate in ways that I don't think he ever knew. I was always thankful for him...even when we did not agree. Your family is in my thoughts. I'm just sorry that my work in Virginia prevents me from being at the memorial to tell you this directly. mko

Mary Katherine (Rodwell) O'Connor - March 29, 2010 at 02:04 PM

RB

“ Your family is in my prayers. We served together on the USD 501 Board of Education together. Curtis and I may not have agreed on everything, but he was a great inspiration to me when I was first elected to the Board. Curtis always seemed to get his point across. I would run into Curtis on different occasions after he left the Board, and we always had a great visit. Again you folks are in my prayers. Sincerely Ron Browning.

Ron Browning - March 28, 2010 at 09:02 PM