

Starley Carr bio interviewed by David Bledsoe



Starley was born in the close-knit friendly community of Rosendale, Mo on June 30, 1942. He attended Rosendale Elementary and Rosendale/North Andrew County High School, graduating in 1960. Starley lettered all four years of high school in basketball, football, track and band. He received “All Conference” honors his junior and senior years in both football and basketball. During his teen years, he was involved in scouting, receiving the Boy Scout rank of Star. As a 4-H club member, he won a blue ribbon for his beef cattle entry.

In 1964, Starley received his Bachelors in Education with a minor in Psychology from Tarkio College, Tarkio, MO. He was “All Conference” in basketball and football his junior and senior year. Math and psychology were his favorite school subjects. Starley says that with all the “in-service” training and special courses he completed while in the F.B.I., it would be

equivalent to two or three Doctorate degrees.

After school and summer jobs for Starley were mainly working on the family farm where the pay was “room and board”. “We raised all kinds of farm animals, mainly crop farming of corn, soybeans and hay. It’s gratifying to see what gets accomplished and we didn’t have to go to gym to get a work out.” While in college, during summer breaks, he and other college kids worked for a company building tennis courts at several schools and universities in Missouri, Iowa, Oklahoma and Nebraska.

Woodworking is one of Starley’s favorite hobbies where he primarily builds furniture for the family and finds it to be relaxing. “If it became a business, it might not be so fun” he says. He enjoys construction type work; speaking in regards to Habitat, “I guess that’s why I’m here.” He enjoys golf, movies, likes to kayak and participate in other water sports.

One of the ways in which Starley serves the community is through his involvement with Youth Encouragement Services that was started by a Church of Christ group. The organization serves Nashville inner city kids through after school & summer programs. Fundraising has been his primary role, but he has also been involved in the organization’s camp restoration in Joelton. The group provides kids help with their studies, tutors and intervention work.

Starley met his lovely wife Jan at college where she was majoring in business. She was a freshman when he was a senior. Starley coached intramural girls’ basketball. Jan was on the team but was not extremely athletic, so she sat on the bench next to Starley

most of the time. After about a year of courtship, they were married in Raytown, MO on August 21, 1965. The ceremony was held at Jan's church, Blue Ridge Presbyterian with 200 people in attendance on one of the hottest days of the year with no air conditioning. Starley says he was sweating for more reasons than one. Their one day honeymoon consisted of traveling from Missouri back to Iowa where Starley taught and coached at Council Bluffs' Abraham Lincoln High School from 1965 – 1969.

After 17 weeks of training in Washington, D.C., Starley was commissioned as a special agent of the F.B.I. in 1969. During the height of the civil rights struggle, his initial assignment was in Jackson, MS where a lot of his work dealt with bomb threats, shootings, the KKK & other hate groups. The movie "Mississippi Burning" portrayed several of the FBI agents Starley knew & worked with. Many of the agents received death threats. After just a few months, he was reassigned to Greenville, MS. In 1970, he transferred to Birmingham, AL where he worked until transferring to Huntsville, AL in 1975. He was stationed in Huntsville through 1992 where he was primarily involved in foreign counterintelligence (spy) cases with the more than 200 companies engaged in top secret work for the federal government. Starley also served as the SWAT team leader for the Birmingham division which included Huntsville. In this role, he was involved in the Atlanta Federal Corrections prison riot of 1987 where for 12 days, prisoners took over and burned most of the facility. His SWAT team was also involved in the resolution of the 1991 riot in Talladega, AL. Federal Correction Institution. From 1992 – 1994, he served as the new agents staff counselor/ mentor at the F.B.I. Training Academy in Quantico, VA. After a variety of assignments in Nashville from 1994 – 1997, Starley retired, at the age of 55, from his exciting and fulfilling career of providing security to our nation in the F.B.I..

Starley went to work for the Province Healthcare Co. as the Vice President of Corporate Compliance from 1997 – 2004. When the company was sold to Lifepoint Hospitals, Starley went to work for Attentus Healthcare until he completely retired in 2006.

Starley and Jan live in the McKay's Mill community of Franklin. They attend Woodmont Hills Church of Christ in Nashville where they share their faith as "doers of the word" through the church's many community outreach programs. He served his church as an Elder for four years. Starley and Jan are so happy and blessed with the fact that both their children are strong Christian believers.

Starley has been involved with Habitat for 15 years through different churches he's attended, most of which has been in Nashville. He has been a regular volunteer with Habitat for Humanity of Williamson County for nearly two years mainly with weekday opportunities. Starley says "I enjoy working with other Christians where there's a great crew associated with the Habitat program. I enjoy seeing the home through to its completion, knowing the end result is that someone is going to have a decent and affordable place to live and I enjoy getting to know the homeowner." Starley is, as all of our Crew Leaders are, a tremendous blessing to our community with service through Habitat for Humanity of Williamson County.