

## **“Member Profile”**

***This week’s feature : Dave and Kathy McCollum***



Dave was born in Lakewood ,OH and grew up with his sister, Carol Pecord, who resides in Mason, OH. He started school at Hayes Elementary, then Harding Jr. High, and graduated from Lakewood High School. He pursued his higher education at Lincoln College in Lincoln, IL and continued on at Ohio University in Athens, OH. Kathy was born at Fairview General Hospital in Cleveland,OH. She grew up in North Olmsted with older brother Ronald Filka who lives in North Carolina and younger sister Dr. Marianne Filka now located in Tennessee. Her early education

was at St. Richard School, and North Olmsted High School. Upon graduation, she enrolled at Bowling Green State University majoring in Speech and Language Therapy receiving a BS degree. Years later she was able to continue her studies at Marygrove College, with a Master's degree in teaching.

Kathy began Full time professional work as the school speech therapist for Strongsville Schools Intensified Development of Language Skills (IDOLS) - a three year Ohio Education Research and Development Program. She also helped facilitate the St. Mary's Improvement of Language Skills (SMILES) program in Berea. Dave has been an entrepreneur starting a small business, at age 12, known as Art Line Printing. With this business sense, he created McCollum Insurance Agency and retired 63 years later.

Kathy and Dave raised a family of five children and know that they have been richly blessed to love each one through their lives. Christine, Kelly, Robert, Andrew, and Michael have given them all the challenges and happiness of parenthood, along with 11 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

In 1975 they married in a small, intimate ceremony by Methodist minister, the Rev. John Lennon. Dave says, "We met by the grace of God which would require a few hours of explanation. It is a story in itself." Kathy agrees it's a long story, explaining it was, "a tapestry of amazing events certainly orchestrated by God!" They came from different religious backgrounds. As they searched for a church that would welcome these diverse histories, they received referrals from trusted friends and clergy. Prince of Peace offered

that welcoming environment and they joined POP around 1980, when Pastor Landis Coffman was serving the congregation.

They have committed to many missions here and focused on their interests in public speaking, acting, prayer leaders, Adam and Eve Diaries, Tables for Eight, Omni sponsors and Blues over Africa event assistants.

Dave is very handy around the house and continues to work on his "Honey Do List". His tools never get a chance to rest. Kathy stays busy making visits with their Therapy Dog and caring for two additional canine family members. She enjoys working with different crafts, reading and gardening. Both have a mutual fondness for horses, dogs, and the theater, although time spent with their 11 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren are tops on that list and brings them much joy.

Some things people may not know is that Dave has a proud background as a nationally rated member of the National Ski Patrol serving Ohio, New York, Utah, and Colorado. He is the current Commander of the US Coast Guard Auxiliary for Northern Ohio. He served in the US Army reserve, field combat medic 1960-1966 with the 83rd infantry division. Thank you Dave for your service to our country!

Some things people may not know about Kathy is that she modeled bridal gowns when in High School, and also served as a hospital volunteer. With the three boys, she served as a Cub Scout Den Mother, and Cub Leader Coach. Kathy describes her

six years as the Red Hat “Queen” of Lake Erie Dearies were, “ridiculously fun!”

Dave and Kathy have owned and ridden four wonderful horses over the course of 29 years. Both directed the musical, “1776” and also were cast members in several musicals at Huntington Playhouse.

They love God, their time together with family, and their POP family as well. They are thankful for the 48 years of their marriage. Genuine love, respect, kindness, generosity, and a deep friendship steeped in mutual communication, has framed every day of their lives. They agree that they have been richly blessed. You will notice a sparkle in their eyes as they come weekly with enthusiasm to worship Our Lord!

*By Tom Robinholt : Profile Reporter*