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News

Jefferson City native shares a lifetime of service and is still going strong

Born and raised in Jefferson City, Bill Luebbert has a lifetime of service under his belt – and he continues to lend his time and talents to his community.

by [Gerry Tritz](#) Nov. 7 2021 @ 11:05pm



Julie Smith/News Tribune Bill Luebbert poses for a photograph in the median at the intersection of Tower and Westwood drives. He and other neighborhood residents take care of the flower bed at the intersection.

Born and raised in Jefferson City, Bill Luebbert has a lifetime of service under his belt — and he continues to lend his time and talents to his community.

"I just refuse to get old," he said with a laugh. "I just feel like your body and mind have to be primed and worked all the time, so I enjoy being active."

Many people in Jefferson City might know him as a former 4th Ward councilman. He served a two-year term several years ago after defeating Carlos Graham, who then took the seat from him two years later. In 2017, Mayor Carrie Tergin appointed Luebbert to fill out a term after a council member resigned.

As a child, Luebbert went to St. Peter's School. He played football in high school and baseball with friends in the street near his home. He earned a bachelor's in civil engineering at the former School of Missouri Mines and Metallurgy and took a job for an engineering firm in Kansas City.

He served in the military and then worked on a construction project at Dulles Airport near Washington, D.C., before taking a job with the former Missouri Power & Light, which brought him back home.

He worked in the gas division, dealing with the layout of systems, new lines and replacement lines, eventually working his way up to operations manager.

The utility company put a premium on its public image, and it wanted its employees to be out in the public, serving the community.

Luebbert's first experience with public service, he believes, was donating blood with the American Red Cross. That led to him becoming a leader in an area blood donation program. (He's donated about 175 pints of blood and counting.)

"Blood donation is easily done, but I'm sure that it had a great effect on people someplace, sometime," he said.

He joined the Knights of Columbus, becoming a grand knight. In the Jefferson City Host Lions Club, he became the club secretary the same night he joined.

In the 1960s, he earned his pilot's license and enjoyed flying. One weekend, he took his girlfriend, Verna, to Hot Springs, Arkansas. After attending Mass there, he proposed to her. They recently celebrated their 54th anniversary.

After a 37-year career with Missouri Power & Light, he retired for about six months before taking a part-time job as a civil engineer. Then he took a federal job in the Office of Personnel Management where he traveled to high schools and to Fort Leonard Wood to give the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery test. Passage was required to join the military.

In 2010, former Councilman Vince Borgmeyer suggested he run for City Council. It's something he always had a desire to do. On the last day of filing, he told his wife: "I'm going down to City Hall and file for City Council."

He won his seat by 100 votes, and quickly went to work, especially focusing on public work issues, of which he had an interest and understanding.

Luebbert continues to help out the Lions on occasion. He particularly enjoys working on the annual peanut sales, bell ringing at Christmas, and the ham and beans dinner. He also has organized a neighborhood group that, for the past several years, has mowed and planted roses and other plants at an area near his home. They do it as part of the city's Adopt-a-Spot program.

He's also been active in the Old Munichberg Association, and he and his wife also have worked as ushers at the Capital Region MU Health Care Amphitheater.

He and his wife also find time for their three children and four grandchildren.

"I just haven't learned to say no, but I'm proud of my community service," he said. "If you exercise your body and keep your mind going, your age number goes up but you keep going."

He enjoys engaging people through his public service. In the Salvation Army's bell-ringing campaign, some people avert their eyes if they don't want to contribute. But he makes them feel welcome, wishing everyone a "Merry Christmas."

"I think people just feel good about that. I feel like I can be the conduit, reaching out" to people. I don't think I'm a gregarious person by nature, but I do enjoy some of that."

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