

Robert F. (Bob) Steffes, Community Service Recipient

Robert F. (Bob) Steffes was born on July 30, 1937 in Slayton, Minnesota. He was Catherine and Ed Steffes' second born of eleven children. He started the first grade in the fall of 1944 in a one-room school called "Tonn" school and continued there until he moved on to Arthur High School in the eighth grade. In 1955 Bob graduated from Arthur High and moved on to the North Dakota Agriculture College where he attended for four quarters. On November 15, 1958 he married his wife Jean Skjaret.

In December of 1959 Bob attended auction school in Mason City, Iowa. Soon after in April of 1960 he had his first farm auction. After getting some experience under his belt, Bob had the opportunity to compete in the 1972 World Championship Livestock Auctioneer contest, which he went on to win. Winning that competition proved to be huge for his career as he gained the respect and notoriety of his peers. Later down the road, Bob was most notably elected to serve as the President of the National Auctioneers Association in 1991. After being elected NAA president, Bob was presented with what he thinks was the greatest honor of his career; Governor George Sinner awarded him the North Dakota National Leadership Award of Excellence.

Today Bob and Jean reside in Fargo, ND and Apache Junction, AZ where they enjoy the company of their large family. Bob and Jean raised six children who together have given them fifteen grandchildren, two step-grandchildren, and one great grandson. Steffes Group, the company that Bob founded, has grown considerably the last several years and many family members continue to be employed there. Bob has been practicing auction for 58 years, he's farmed for 30 years, and above all he has been married to Jean for 60 years.