

Bruce Okrepkie

I was born on February 20, 1950 in Johnson City New York. I have an older brother Gary and younger sister Ardith. I grew up in a small town called Newark Valley. Being a small town, my graduating class had 89 kids. In High School I would have been referred to as a Jock. I was the quarterback of the football team, captain of the basketball team, the all-star third baseman and ran track ending up with 11 varsity letters.

After high school I went to Akron University- Go Zips! I graduated with a degree in marketing and a minor in accounting. I returned to my hometown and started out as an educated bartender. That is where I met my wife, Diantha. Di was the Village Justice and held court on Mondays and would come into the restaurant after court for a drink. We have now been married for 46 years. Right after we got married, we decided to go to California. Her brother lived in Santa Rosa so we decided to go there. We sold the house put the furniture in storage and left for California with two kids, no job and no home. Go west young man go west. We lived in Santa Rosa for 22 years in Bennett Valley and then moved to Windsor. We lived in Oak Creek for 18 years and moved to Lakewood Hills and have lived there for 6 years.

I started out working for the Rohnert Park Cotati Clarion selling advertising. I next went to work as a management trainee for San Francisco Federal Savings and loan, I worked my way up to manager of the regional office in Coddington. I left the banking industry and started my 36-year career as an insurance broker. First working for Ellingson and Jones which became ABD then Wells Fargo. I later worked for George Petersen Insurance. I ran the surety department and construction division.

I have three children, Tiffany, Beth and Jeff. Six grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren. Tiffany is a nurse, Beth a Chief at the Federal Court in Sacramento and Jeff is an insurance broker like me and sits on the City Council for the City of Santa Rosa.

I also was in politics when I moved to Windsor. I first was a planning commissioner for the Town of Windsor and then ran for Town Council. I was on the Council for 8 years and Mayor three times. I have served on various boards. Starting with President of the Booster Club at Montgomery High School, President of the board of directors of the Boys and Girls Club of Santa Rosa, President of 20-30 Club of Santa Rosa, Chair of Sonoma Clean Power and sat on a variety of other boards. Presently, I am chair of the Board of Directors of Providence Hospital. During my retirement I enjoy playing golf and following our grandchildren around to their soccer, baseball and football games. Di and I like to travel and enjoy family events. Lastly, I am enjoying SIRS and the fellowship with our members.