

Commissioner Profile

Walter G. Reiner

Walter Reiner was born in a small house in South Linden. He grew up in North Linden and lived at 3480 Maize Road at the northeast corner of Lenore Avenue. The family then moved to 1156 Oakland Park and built a new home in the middle of Oakland Nursery. He graduated from St. James the Less Grade School in 1957 and Aquinas College High School, 557 Mt. Vernon Avenue in 1961, where he ran track and was a “diver” on the swimming team and a guard on the football team. He attended O.S.U. in 1961, graduated in 1966 and was on the freshman soccer team where he improved speed. He played football with the Pope’s Inn entry in the Buckeye Heavyweight League coached by O.S.U All-American, Vic Marino, where he was a running back averaging six+ yards per carry. There was a variety of former high school players - including many from the Linden area - and practices were at Linden Park. The Popes’ team was undefeated, beating Dayton, Cincinnati, London Prison Farm, Marion Correctional, and the Ohio Penitentiary in a famous “mud bowl” game at the old Ohio Pen. Then Mr. Reiner was briefly on the O.S.U. football team coached by Wayne Woodrow Hayes.

He then joined the U.S. Army and became a tank commander with five tanks at Ft. Knox, KY and was a protocol officer in Savannah GA at Hunter Army Airfield and attended fixed wing flight school at Ft. Stewart, GA and Ft. Rucker, AL.

He then went to the Republic of Viet Nam and joined the 184th Reconnaissance Airplane Company in 1968. He flew artillery missions in the delta and then worked with MACV Special Operations Group as a pilot in II Corps primarily, and had two L19 “Bird Dog” aircraft under his command. In 1969 Cpt. Reiner became a Company Commander of a 1,000-man HQ & HQ Company at Ft. Hauchuca, AZ.

In 1971 he graduated from the American Graduate School of International Management aka “Thunderbird” with bachelors and masters degrees. After visiting East Germany and Czechoslovakia (then behind the Iron Curtain) on business, he began a real career.

Mr. Reiner became a realtor in Columbus and in the mid-1970s he founded Reiner Realty & Consultants, Inc. as a real estate broker and general (commercial) and residential appraiser. After this, he became primarily a commercial builder/developer/investor. He was a founding member of the Linden Area Commission, the Greater Linden Development Corporation and, along with community leaders, created the Linden Resource Center concept through the North Linden N.E. Columbus Business Association – which was founded so that Cleveland Avenue could be declared an NCR strip. Mr. Reiner remains a member of the North Linden Area Commission and is its Planning Chair. He and his wife, Lois Reiner, have three children, Adam, Bethany and Alex.