

Houk recognized for service

DALE CURRY
STAFF WRITER

Dale Houk's family and coworkers gathered recently to help him celebrate his 50th year serving as a licensed funeral home director/embalmer.

When Houk was honorably discharged from the United States Air Force in July, 1971, he realized he needed a job. He soon was hired at a funeral home but didn't realize he was starting in what would become a lifetime profession for him.

According to Houk, however, he soon dis-

covered that this was what he was meant to do. Because of finding his niche in that particular work, Houk graduated from the Kentucky School of Mortuary Science in Louisville in 1975.

Knowing the number of families he has assisted at one of life's most crucial moments is impossible to know at this point but many families in Green County have encountered him at a difficult time.

"Even after 50 years," Houk said, "I still have folks who thank me for what I did years ago."

Of course, giving that help at all times of day and night, holidays and regular days, means that his family had to share him with many other families.

"We understand that this is a life of service," said Houk's wife, Lana Carol, "and we had to adjust accordingly."

Houk has some words of wisdom with anyone who is thinking about entering the profession he has been in for so long.

"It is a service," he said. "And you are there to serve in an extreme time of need. It takes dedication and

hard work."

The celebration for Houk took place at The Lighthouse Restaurant in Sulphur Well, near where he has lived for many years. Coworkers from Foster-Toler-Curry Funeral Home gathered there for the festivities along with Green County Judge-Executive John Frank, who presented Houk with a certificate and pin in honor of this achievement.

Houk said that he hopes to continue his work at Foster-Toler-Curry Funeral Home for years to come.



Photo submitted

Dale Houk is congratulated by Green County Judge-Executive John Frank for Houk's 50 years as a funeral home director and embalmer.

City Council meets, approves a proposed water rate study

CLEVIS JEFFRIES
STAFF WRITER

The Greensburg City Council, in its regular monthly meeting Tuesday, January 20, by a roll call vote of 5-0, approved a proposal for the Kentucky Rural Water As-

sociation to perform a water rate sufficiency study for the City of Greensburg at a proposed cost of \$7,250.

"The Kentucky Rural Water Association has been a tremendous resource to the City. We have engaged them to help facili-

tate a rate study to ensure we may cover our costs," said Mayor John Shuffett.

In other business, Council members approved:

(1) To accept a bid from Charles Miller, 2nd Chance Roof-

ing and Construction, for repairs at the Greensburg/Green County Fire and Rescue building

(2) To table a motion regarding the proposed acquisition of LED lighting for 83 lampposts located in the City of Greensburg.

Smith speaks to Rotary Club



Photo by Clevis Jeffries

Green County native Larry Smith was the guest speaker at the Greensburg Rotary Club Tuesday, January 20. He currently is the General Manager and a radio broadcaster at WVLC-99.9 FM "The Big Dawg." His presentation focused on his career in radio.

January is National Radon Action Month

LAKE CUMBERLAND
AREA DISTRICT
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Test Your Home for Radon Gas

You can't see it, smell it, or touch it.

The #1 cause of lung cancer outside of smoking is a radioactive gas that everyone breathes in every day, usually at low levels, according to the National Cancer Institute.

Radon gas is produced from a natural breakdown of uranium in soil, rock, and water. This radioactive gas can be detected in homes, offices, and schools; it enters buildings through cracks in floors and walls, construction joints, or gaps around service pipes, electrical wires, and sump pits.

When radon gas exceeds acceptable levels, the result can be deadly.

Scientists estimate 15,000 to 22,000 lung cancer deaths in the U.S. each year are related to radon.

People who breathe in radioactive particles, swallow water with high radon levels

or are exposed to radon for a long period are susceptible to lung damage and lung cancer. The Environmental Protection Agency says nearly 1 out of every 15 homes in America is estimated to have elevated radon levels.

How Do You Know If You're at Risk?

The EPA reports elevated levels of radon gas have been measured in every state. Everyone is at some risk. Smokers who are exposed to elevated levels of radon gas are at higher risk of developing lung cancer.

Testing is the only way to determine how much radon is present in your home or drinking water. Short-term (3- to 4-day) and long-term (3- to 12-month) test kits are available. In some cases, manufacturers of these kits will conduct analysis and post results online.

How Much is Too Much?

No level of radon exposure is considered completely safe, however, the EPA only recom-

mends reducing radon levels in your home if your long-term exposure averages 4 picocuries per liter (pCi/L) or higher. A pCi is a measure of the rate of radioactive decay of radon gas. (These are the tiny particles that can get trapped in your lungs when you breathe.)

Reducing Radon Gas in Your Home

The American Cancer Society says various methods can be used to reduce radon gas levels in your home, including sealing cracks in floors and walls and increasing ventilation through sub-slab depressurization using pipes and fans.

The EPA recommends using a state or nationally-certified contractor because lowering high radon levels often requires technical expertise and special skills.

January is National Radon Action Month

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has designated

January as National Radon Action Month, a time when health agencies across the country urge all Americans to have their homes tested for radon. Schools, businesses, and other buildings also should be tested, according to the EPA.

See Radon, page 8A

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