

KENNETH KERN  
KANSAS DISTRICT OF KIWANIS HALL OF FAME - 2015

Born on the farm at Washington, KS on July 7, 1930. Attended one room country grade school and graduated from Washington High School in 1948. Graduated from Kansas State University in January 1953 with a BS degree in Vocational Agriculture Education and received commission in the United States Air Force as a Second Lieutenant. Married Leona Fry on August 19, 1951 and she passed away May 2, 2009. Have three adult children, Linda Smith and husband Larry, near Des Moines IA; David Kern and wife Pat, near Springfield MO; Lois Faber and husband Bryan, Arkansas City KS; 13 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren at last count.

Served two years active duty in the Air Force from March 1953 to March 1955 and joined the Air Force Reserves. Recalled to active duty for one year during the Berlin Wall Crisis in 1961. Retired from the Air Force in 1981 with the rank of Lt. Colonel.

Returned to K-State University in 1955 as a graduate teacher assistant in the Agricultural Engineering Department and received MS degree in Mechanics and School Administration in August 1956. Employed in 1956 as the Osage City High School Vocational Agriculture teacher for eight years. In sales for several years and on the Osage City Unified School Board for little over two years serving as vice-president and president then 14 years as High School Principal. Served on the Kansas State High School Activities Association (KSHSAA) board of directors for six years. Member of the Osage City Methodist Church administrative board and church treasurer for eight years.

Employed in July 1981 as Executive Director of the State Conservation Commission in Topeka until retired in July 1995. Besides the regular work served on the Kansas Water Authority, Reinventing Kansas Government Committee, State Employee Health Advisory Committee and served six years on the National Association of State Conservation Administrators Board of Directors.

A charter member of the Kiwanis Club of Osage City in 1957 and has served the club as secretary, vice-president, and president, and member of many committees and still a member of the club. Elected as 1997-98 Division 11 Lt. Governor and appointed Kansas Kiwanis District Secretary October 1, 1998 and served until September 30, 2004. During the time as District Secretary was also the district certified instructor for the Lt. Governors and club officer's education programs. Served many years and still serving as Kansas District Resolutions and Bylaws chairman. Was appointed to the Kiwanis International Education and Club Development committee for 2001-02 and in 2014-15 to the Kiwanis International Committee on Resolutions and Amendments. Life member of the Kansas Kiwanis Foundation, Hixson Diamond Level 1 and Tablet of Honor recipient. Attended 15 Kiwanis International Conventions the latest was the 2014-15 Convention in Indianapolis.