

KEN MANTHEY (PHS 1975)

A lifelong resident of Portage, Ken graduated from Portage High School in 1975. After earning his associate degree in the police science program, Ken was immediately hired by the Portage Police Department in 1979.

Ken would spend the next 40 years serving and protecting the residents of Portage and surrounding communities. Ken would eventually rise to the position of Portage Chief of Police and he held that lofty title for 18 years.

During his years of service, Ken was presented with the Officer of the Year award by the Wisconsin Law Enforcement Officers Association. He was instrumental in the success of many community organizations and projects such as Prevention and Response in Columbia County (PARCC), Citizens Police Academy and Volunteers in Police Services, among many others.

After his retirement in 2020, Ken leaned on his strong faith to continue to serve the community by starting a county-wide chaplain program that provides comfort to people during difficult times and who may have experienced loss.

Ken's latest venture has been as a comfort dog handler. Ken has been married to his wife Beth for over 41 years. They have two daughters, Emily and Rachel.