

Kurt was born in Mankato, MN in 1967, moved to Ely, MN in 1973, and then to Grand Rapids, MN in 1978. Growing up, Kurt enjoyed hunting, fishing, playing football, hockey, and golf. After graduating high school in 1986, Kurt attended the United States Air Force Academy where he met his wife, Julie, who was attending Colorado State University. He was a defenseman at Air Force for four years and was named the team captain as a junior and senior. In May of 1990, Kurt graduated and went on to pilot training at Vance Air Force Base in Enid, OK. After pilot training, he flew KC-10's on the West coast for 10 years, accumulating over 3,000 hours flying worldwide. Kurt was hired by American Airlines in 1999 and moved to the Crystal Lake area in 2002. He retired as a Lt. Colonel from the Air Force Reserves in 2014 after 23 years of service and is now a Boeing 787 First Officer with American Airlines. Kurt coached in the Yellowjackets organization since 2008 and was an assistant coach with Prairie Ridge High School from 2011-2013. His wife works as a dental receptionist, his daughter is a senior at the University of Iowa and his son is a junior at Prairie Ridge.