

DR. J. ROBERT "DOC" CURTIS (PHS 1933)

Born in 1915, Dr. J. Robert Curtis was a member of Portage's first kindergarten class in 1920. Dr. Curtis graduated from Portage High School in 1933, went on to the University of Wisconsin and graduated from the College of Veterinary Medicine, Ohio State University in 1938 before returning to Portage and joining his father in his veterinary practice. Dr. Curtis had many ties to the Portage area education system. He served as a member of the Portage School Board for 25 years. Dr. Curtis also helped plan and organize the Cooperative Educational Service Agency, now known as CESA 5, and was a member of its first board of directors. He was a member of the Madison Area Technical College board, serving three years as president, and later served on the MATC Foundation board. Dr. Curtis was instrumental in the building of what is now the Wayne E. Bartels Middle School and the John Muir Elementary School. He also was involved in building the Portage Community Pool. Dr. Curtis authored and published A Military History of Portage, 1673-1975. He was selected as the Portage Person of the Year in 2006 and served on many community boards and councils. Dr. Curtis passed away in August 2012.