

**2015 SD Distinguished Service to Community Award Winner
Sherry Ternes -- Corson County**

Sherry Ternes is retiring in 2015 after working almost 38 years for FmHA, ASCS, and FSA. After all the hours of volunteer service she provides to her community, we would have remorse if we failed to nominate Sherry for the NASCOE Distinguished Service to Community Award. Sherry Ternes is very active in all local community activities and is truly one of the pillars of the community that keeps our little area of the world alive.

Rural area schools form the ties that bind former students to their small town past. For over 25 years, Sherry has served as Chairperson for the annual McIntosh High School Tiger Alumni Reunion held every second weekend in July. Throughout the year she maintains the alumni list containing over 1300 contacts, then sends out the newsletters and registration forms. This school reunion draws over 300 alumni home each year and is the highlight of the year for our town. Sherry collects all registrations, lines up the banquets, and organizes this event each year. She lines up the many volunteers, orders the supplies for the weekend event, and makes sure set up and tear down is done with ease.

Sherry is also a very active member of the St Bonaventure Church and has never refused to help with any function whenever asked. She is always helping with church, cleanup, painting, fundraisers, communion, youth group, and serving at funerals. Each fall the church holds an annual Hunters Steak Fry and Fall Festive. For days prior to the event, she gathers the food and helps make the preparations to ensure this small group of volunteers can serve up the many meals in a timely fashion. After the bushels of potatoes are wrapped in foil and ready to go in the oven, she lines up the many salads and desserts. Then after the guests are gone she makes sure everything is set up and cleaned up when done.

Sherry Ternes is also involved with our Community Club or as known in the area, MAC Club. This essential community based organization has provided our small town with many public projects which include a playground, community hall, and outdoor pavilion. Whenever Mac Club holds a Sunday dinner fundraiser, annual steak fry for alumni weekend (yes she does more than just Alumni functions that weekend) or community fundraiser, Sherry is always there for the community to help set up and clean up where ever she can.

McIntosh hosts the Corson County Fair each August to recognize area 4H achievements and gather families for a fun filled weekend. We can always count on Sherry to volunteer her time to take tickets and work with the kids.

As the daughter of a military veteran, Sherry joined the local American Legion Auxiliary at an early age, where she has held every officer position over years. This local chapter is very active helping organize Memorial Day and Veteran's Day events and decorating graves. Through their fundraising efforts, the Auxiliary sponsors college scholarships and patriotic essay contests for local youth.

Sherry and Phil, her husband of over 40 years, own the only grocery store in town where she is also known to stock some shelves and wait on customers there also. Their store was recently recognized with a regional community service award for all their charitable work and contributions over the many years.

They have 3 children and 5 grandchildren. Sherry enjoys spending as much as she can at her grandchildren's activities. Sherry Ternes began her career in USDA as Program Tech for the Farmers Home Administration on May 8, 1977. When FmHA decided to consolidate and close the office in McIntosh, Sherry became a traveling Tech working in many offices in the state. Once an opening occurred in the Corson County ASCS office, Sherry continued her career as a new County Office employee in June 1987 and immediately became a full member of SDASCOE.

In 1998 Corson County FSA needed a Farm Loan Officer and Sherry fit the bill perfectly with her knowledge and people skills. Even after switching to a GS employee, Sherry Ternes continued to be a proud full member of SDASCOE and one of the few GS employees who faithfully pay full membership dues over the past 16 years.

We respectfully nominate Sherry Ternes for NASCOE's Distinguished Service to Community Award.

Doug Hofer & Bill Chase