



Following graduation from Liberty High's Vocational School, Sterling graduated (1963) from DeVry Technical Institute (now DeVry University) in Chicago, earning a diploma in Electrical-Electronics. While attending DeVry, he worked as an assistant foreman for Basset Torres, a manufacturer of loading coils for telephones.

Sterling met his future wife, Sandy Leidich in 1957 when he was a mere 14 years old (she was 13). Sandy, a 1962 graduate of Easton High School, went on to study nursing at the Allentown Hospital School of Nursing. After "going steady" for 7 years, they married in 1964. Sandy continued nursing school and received her diploma in 1965 from the Allentown Hospital School of Nursing, after which she joined Sterling in Chicago. Realizing that further education would be necessary to keep

abreast of the nursing profession, Sandy received a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and a Master of Science in Nursing. Over the years, Sandy worked as a Registered Nurse in medical-surgical care, mental health, intensive care, cardiac care, home health, and nursing education. She is now a volunteer Parish Nurse at their church.

Sterling left Basset Torres in 1966 and enlisted in the United States Army. After basic and advanced training, he was assigned by the Army to an Air Defense System missile base located between Downingtown and Philadelphia. The base housed surface-to-air Hercules missiles and Sterling was a control operator whose job was to track the missiles and guide them to flying targets. In 1968, he was transferred to a Hercules missile base, 80 miles south of Seoul, South Korea, where he remained until his honorable discharge in 1969.

Like most men discharged from the military, Sterling was unsure about his future so he took a job working at Bethlehem Steel Company in their maintenance department. After a year at Bethlehem Steel, he was accepted by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) electrical apprentice program for union construction electricians. After successfully completing this four year course, Sterling was classified as a Journeyman Electrician. A journeyman electrician has the option of working independently, for independent construction/electrical contractors or for union locals. Sterling opted to work for Union Local 367 (Easton) and was assigned jobs that required electrical work during the construction phase. Because of his recognized work habits, he was assigned various jobs with a diversity of organizations; some of them being Hoffman LaRoche, Lafayette College, Saucon Valley High School, DuPont, and the Pittsburgh (PA) International Airport.

About halfway through the 1990's, business started to decrease and the building/renovation of private housing, new offices, retail malls, and warehouses

dropped significantly. Sterling's job was in jeopardy so he decided to obtain his Commercial Drivers License (CDL) to drive activity buses and school buses (as opposed to commercial buses). After a stint of being a school bus driver for the Pleasant Valley School District (Brodheads ville, PA), he accepted a job transporting the disabled and driving tour buses to New York City and throughout Eastern Pennsylvania. By mid-1995 construction improved and he returned to doing electrical work.

Sterling and Sandy are the proud parents of two impressive sons, Sterling, Jr. and Scott. Sterling graduated in 1990 from Penn State as an Electrical Technology Engineer and was hired as an engineer for Mittal Steel Company (Steelton, PA). After leaving Mittal in 2016, he accepted a job with A.K Steel Company (Rockport, IN) as an engineer in their maintenance department. Scott, also a Penn State graduate (1993), received his degree as an Environmental Technology Engineer. He is employed by High Steel Structures (Lancaster, PA) as an environmental engineer and is a Pennsylvania licensed Professional Engineer. In addition to their children, Sterling and Sandy are also parents to a mini golden doodle dog who keeps them active and young.

In 1973, the Werkheisers succumbed to the recreational vehicle (RV) craze and bought a small trailer for camping. As their love for motoring increased, they moved up from a small trailer to a large and more comfortable RV. In December of 2015, the "go-as-you-please couple" loaded up their RV and drove to Pasadena, California to attend the Rose Bowl Parade on New Year's Day. On their return trip home, they made it a point to stop at some tourist attractions such as the World War II Museum in New Orleans.



RV traveling and camping is a large part of Sterling and Sandy's retired life; in fact, the only trip they made not camping was a week land, air, and sea tour to Alaska (2014) to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. They have already visited 47 out of 50 states and are now faced with a decision: travel to North and South Dakota to visit national parks, historical towns of the old west, and eat BBQ Ribs or travel to Hawaii to enjoy the beautiful scenery, incredible nightlife and fantastic food.

Sterling and Sandy live in Palmyra and although they seldom get back to Bethlehem, Sterling has fond memories of the city and his days at Liberty High. Sterling credits the Vocational Department with providing him a strong foundation for his career as an electrician and for providing the foundation for a good life.