

One of Birchwood's Own

Major Curt Feistner grew up in Birchwood Village and attended White Bear Lake schools where he edited the high school paper and was a National Honor Society member. In addition to being an Eagle Scout, Curt thrived in Birchwood where neighbors support one another; he worked for them, mowed their lawns, shoveled their driveways and delivered their newspapers. Enjoying the outdoors, he spent summers swimming at Kay Beach, riding his bicycle, participating in the July 4th parade, and winters cross-country skiing and ice skating. These outdoor activities eventually led him to the 1994 Ironman World Championship in Kona, Hawaii.

After graduating from West Point as an Army aviator, Curt attended airborne and ranger training, and excelled as a leader in Task Force 160th, the nation's premier special operations aviation regiment. Curt died shortly after 9/11 when his helicopter crashed at sea while supporting the Philippine Army's efforts to rescue two American missionaries as part of America's war on terror.



Feistner enjoyed pick up hockey games. Pictured here on the frozen White Bear Lake.



Left Photo: Major Curtis D. Feistner

Bottom Photo: Curt Feistner as "Yankee Doodle Drummer Boy" in the 4th of July parade, 1977.



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Remembering a Hero

On April 9, 2002, the city council of Birchwood Village voted unanimously to rename the city easement at the base of East County Line where it meets the shore of White Bear Lake the "Curt Feistner Memorial Beach." The name has since evolved to be a memorial preserve.

