

Richard S Stevens

An Abbreviated Biography

Richard was born in Oregon in 1944. At an early age, his family moved to upstate NY, because his father, returning from WWII, was unable to find work in Oregon. Richard grew up in upstate NY.

He went to college at Cornell University where he studied Biological Sciences and also participated in the Reserve Officer's Training Corps (ROTC) program. He received his BS degree in 1966.

Upon graduation, Richard took his oath to serve as a Reserve Officer. His first and only assignment was Vandenberg AFB, Lompoc, CA. As Second Lieutenant, he was assigned to the 394th Missile Squadron. He went through training to become a Deputy Commander of a Minuteman ICBM launch crew.

During his time at Vandenberg, Richard test launched 17 Minuteman Missiles at targets located in two atolls in the Marshall Island Group. While serving, Richard entered a Master's Degree program in Operations Management at the University of Southern California (USC). In 1969, at the rank of Captain, Richard was awarded a Regular Commission. In 1970, he completed the Master's program. In October, 1971, Richard and his wife, Joy, left the Air Force to seek a career into civilian life.

After a few months of job searching, Richard was offered a job at Hewlett-Packard (HP) located in the San Francisco Bay Area. During his time at HP, he had a variety of jobs both on the manufacturing and Support sides of the company. During his 28 years at HP, he worked in every functional area of HP except Human Resources.

In September 2000, Richard retired from HP. He worked for a consulting company and 2 startups for the initial 9 months, because of the dot com recession. One of the companies filed for Chapter 8 Bankruptcy. So, Richard took a different tact: teaching. He was accepted by the University of Phoenix to teach Project Management. Concurrently, he was asked to develop and teach a Quality Management Class at San Jose State.

In 2006, Richard turned his sights towards becoming a community volunteer. He joined Sacred Heart Community Services helping those in need to find work. He helped clients with writing resumes, searching for work, preparing for interviews, and financial counseling.

In 2010, two parks in their San Jose Community were about to lose 140 trees because PG&E decided to cut trees to spare the expense of many years of pruning trees in their right of way. In response, the community rose up to challenge their decision. The community successfully negotiated the number of trees to be cut down to 14. In addition, Richard Co-founded and led a nonprofit Parks Association to not only protect the trees but also, working with San Jose Parks, to enhance the two parks.

In 2018, with both of their children on their own, Richard and Joy decided to downsize their San Jose home of 43 years to move to a new home in East Garrison. The Monterey Peninsula has been a family favorite for many years.

Besides getting settled into their new home and volunteering with a committee that is working with the builder to plan the East Garrison Town Center and working with the County to plan the Historic District, Richard is now looking forward to his new role as District 4 Representative to the Military and Veteran Affairs Advisory Commission.