

## Ray Greene

I retired from the US Air Force in 1983 as a Lt Col. While on active duty; I was assigned to Ubon RTAFB, Thailand with operational experience with various sensor, LORAN-D, electro-optical, and laser systems in the F-4 Phantom aircraft (at that time, state-of-the-art systems). Awards include the Distinguished Flying Cross, eleven awards of the Air Medal,



completing 160 combat missions, 11 of which were in North Vietnam. I was also assigned to USAF Europe, flying from RAF Bentwaters, UK; Aviano AB, Italy; Zaragoza AB, Spain and Torrejon AB, Spain; and German bases. I accrued ~3000 military flying hours and 1000 civilian flying hours, was awarded the USAF Command Pilot Badge, hold a commercial pilot's license with multi-engine and instrument ratings, and a FAA certified flight instructor rating.

After retirement, I attended William & Mary Law School, Williamsburg, VA following which I was in private practice a little north of Norfolk-Hampton area of Virginia from



1986 to 1999. During this period, I had a general practice law firm in the areas of criminal trial work, real property law, and intellectual property law. The law firm grew to seven attorneys and two patent agents. Setting up the law firm required lots of multi-tasking (all learned in plebe summer) such as an accounting system for payroll and operating expenses, a trust accounting system to comply with Virginia State

Bar requirements, office operating procedures, a research library, subscriptions to periodicals and journals, a de-conflicting system and various tickler systems to insure meeting required deadlines and statutory limits.

In 1999, I applied for a position with the Navy Office of General Counsel. The assignment was located in London, England but mostly involved setting up scientific collaborations with European nations including former Soviet block countries. Here's a picture in front of Lenin's Tomb in Moscow.



Being Navy, most of our projects were in St. Petersburg where the maritime facilities were located. I was still

able to find a few airplanes. Here's a picture of me on a Sukoi Mk-30 at an airfield south of St. Petersburg



The Office of Naval Research set up numerous projects with enterprises in ST. Petersburg for research in automation, maritime, and physics projects. My duties included liaison with the scientific community, mainly agencies of the Russian Academy of Sciences. Luckily, I had taken 8 credit hours of Russian language at the Academy. Unluckily, I only remembered three words, Peva, Spaseeba, and Dosvidonya. But nevertheless, I was awarded the Navy Meritorious Civilian Service Award. Here's a picture of Karl Marx' gravesite with "Workers of All Lands, Unite"

After all that paperwork, the Bush administration sent out a request for volunteers (from the civilian federal attorneys). It was late '07, and I had been at home some time, sniffing about, taking things very easy, and (in view of my combat fighter pilot persona, greatly enhanced by the re-telling of stories from the days when pilots were IN the airplanes) considering how I might lie low and enjoy a quiet life in England while my military colleagues braved shot and IED in the sandbox on behalf of the innocent defenseless Iraqis— not that there's any such thing in my experience. Since I was in the "Don't ask don't tell Navy", I didn't have to tell them how old I was. I turned in my volunteer letter for Task Force 134, Detainee Ops, at Camp Victory, Baghdad. Lo and behold (a great shock to my wife) they called me up a few weeks later and said I was accepted! Of course, I was



not a combatant, just a paper shuffler as usual. Nevertheless, the next event was combat re-qual. We were put on a bus to Fort Jackson, a group of reservists and me, the only civilian, with “Civilian DoN” on my BDU’s, ACU’s, or whatever they call fatigues these days.



Here are a couple of shots trying to recall basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri (1958)! The new training was 3 weeks at Fort Jackson, for M16 and M9 training, 4-man teams kicking in doors, going to the Lomah Range, pop-up target range, falling out of the Humvee trainer. And, then two weeks in Kuwait for convoy defense. According to the drill sergeant “How many passengers are in a convoy? None, you are all combatants.” Ultimately I did not deploy to Baghdad, but it was quite an adventure for an old soldier.

After all that important federal service, I retired from government service. I took a trip out to White Sands Missile Range to participate in the Bataan Death March. Here is a picture from Grand Junction that says the administration should be replaced by the Tea Party, whoever that is.



Here are some family photos showing that I am indeed a multiple grandfather!

Daughter, Katrina with husband, Bill and grandsons, Eric, Jacob, Patrick, Caleb, granddaughter, Katie

So, it's been a helluva tour, but where was your grandchildren's GRANDFATHER during the "big one" in Southwest Asia?