

James Kottke - Southfield High School - Class of 1957

After graduating from Southfield with some of America's Finest Teenagers, I went into the U.S. Navy where I spent the next some 20 years. I retired at 36 and a half years old as a Chief Petty Officer trained in the field of Journalism. My Navy career allowed travel from Norfolk, VA., to Bangkok, Thailand as well as many places in-between. In 1964 I married my wife, Lieu in Saigon South Vietnam and our two daughters, Debrah and Katherine were born in 1965 and 1968 respectively.

After retiring from the Navy I returned to college in preparation for a new career in Marketing with the Federal Government. Soon thereafter, I began working for the Defense Logistics Agency with Headquarters in Battle Creek, MI. This government surplus career allowed me to manage facilities in Berlin Germany; Frankfurt, Germany; Honolulu, HI; Agana, Guam; and Okinawa Japan. We finally settled in at Oceanside, CA. Afterward, I was sent on temporary duty locations all over the U.S., the Pacific, and Atlantic. My last position at Barstow, CA made me decide, in 2001 to retire from my second career and - - you got it - - travel for fun. But wouldn't you know it - I got a part time job as a Customer Service Representative for Enterprise Rent-A-Car but then I got recalled to my former Government Surplus representative duties on contract for the next 10 months. As of July 17, 2007 I am fully retired. We have made Oceanside, CA our permanent home and have lots of fun deciding which restaurant to visit, which hotel to stay in at Las Vegas and which airline to use flying to Chicago to visit the two grandchildren.

Its been a fast trip from graduation to today. If anyone remembers me please write: j.kottke@cox.net and I will respond. So many of my high school friends and associates had great influences on my life. To say a few - Mike and JoAnn Warren, John Heinonen, Barry Silvarman, and many others - and especially Mr. Bob Watts - the very best motivator on earth! Wishing everyone the very best for 2008 and beyond.

Jim and Lieu Kottke
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