

Spotlight on Donald “Don” Foltz

Life after Azusa High School

After serving as governor of our senior class and being an active member of the Azusa DeMolay, Don Foltz continued his service to others by enlisting in the U.S. Marine Corps, where he spent most of his adult life. After choosing the military as a career, Don worked his way up the ranks from Private – gunnery sergeant, Warrant Officer 1 through Chief Warrant Officer 4, to 1st Lieutenant and retired as a Captain O-3E. During that time he managed to fit in time as a volunteer Scoutmaster for a group of boy scouts, get married (twice), and be blessed with five children and eight grandchildren.

Please note: I decided not to edit the following biography because Don's chronological accounting of his personal life was mentioned sequentially with his life in the military and I didn't want to change the order of things. So, without further ado, in Don's own words...



Don Foltz USMC 1982

Work and Family

The summer after graduation I obtained a job at Harding Military Academy in Glendora as a Camp Counselor and as a PE Supervisor during the school year, I enrolled at Citrus with a major in Forestry (Boy Scout and camping/backpacking background). Changed major twice in the next year and finally decided to join the military.



Paula & Don Foltz 1967

Enlisted in USMC (Aviation guarantee) March '63, attended aviation electronics training in Memphis, TN. I transferred to Marine Corps Air Facility Santa Ana, CA (blimp hangars) in May '64 to work on helicopters. This is when I met future wife through Jay Beard ('63) and Azusa DeMolay Chapter.

I deployed in February '66 with first CH-46 squadron into RVN (Marble Mountain/Danang). Returned to MCAF Santa Ana in March '67 and decided to reenlist. Married former Paula Fadely (Glendora '66) and transferred to Memphis, TN to teach electronics to new enlistees. Daughter Lisa Marie was born two weeks before *THE* Lisa Marie.

Transferred back to RVN in August '69 and joined a squadron operating on the USS Tripoli (LPH-10).

I returned to Memphis in September '70 to attend advanced electronics training. In June '71 we transferred to MCAF Santa Ana where I taught advanced electronics maintenance courses. Our son Brian was born February, 1972.

Transferred back to WestPac in February '75 and joined a helicopter squadron in Okinawa, and helped support the evacuation of Saigon. Selected for advancement to Warrant Officer and returned to the states in November. Attended Warrant Officer Course in Quantico, VA and was transferred to Marine Corps Air Station El Toro in May '76.

I served as the Avionics Officer for the largest Air Group in the USMC which consisted of four squadrons of F-4 Phantom aircraft. Wife of almost nine years decided she wanted a divorce.

I served in two fighter squadrons deploying to numerous forward operating bases in various locales. I met Marny Fricker (Anaheim '64) Irwin on a blind date one week prior to deploying overseas again.

This time it was with a squadron of F-4s aboard the USS Coral Sea (CV-43). We left out of NAS Alameda in November '79 and sailed for the Indian Ocean. We participated in the ill-fated Iranian hostage rescue attempt in April '80 and were relieved to sail home. On the way we were dispatched to South Korea where the Prime Minister had just been assassinated. Two weeks later we were again on the way home.



Don and Marny Fricker 1994

We arrived back at Alameda on June 12, 1980. I had received transfer orders to the Marine Aviation Detachment, Point Mugu, CA prior to returning to the states. Marny and I took all of our mixed families camping on the coast just south of



Foltz-Fricker Wedding Day 1980

the base and on July 4, I asked her to marry me. We were married on August 4th with our kids (all five) standing up with us. We promised each other that the only way one of us was going to leave our marriage would be "feet-first!"

We lived on base and were active in the Base Chapel and I took over the base Boy Scout Troop, Marny had a Girl Scout Troop. It was great! We had my kids during the summers and every other weekend. We kept her son and two daughters very busy, which kept us very busy. At the end of my tour, I was slated to return to El Toro but we couldn't get housing for a couple of years and it would have been very difficult to live on the economy. I asked for and received assignment to the Marine Corps Air Station in Yuma, AZ.

It was June and when we transferred it was 108°. I had to keep a bottle of wine handy. I think Marny cried all the way! We had lived only ¾ mile from the ocean at Point Mugu. In Yuma, we bought a 4 bedroom home with a pool – so soon it was forgotten how hot it was. We also rediscovered that Karol Ruffing ('61) and husband Bill White ('60) had lived in Yuma since the late 60's!

I had interesting assignments for the next four years but did a lot of traveling (Logistics Support Team) for the AV-8B Harrier II. I was due for transfer back to El Toro and now had Marny's oldest kids in High School – it was time to bid farewell to the Marines...almost.

I was able to secure a position in the Marine Corps only adversary squadron and it was stationed at Yuma. Totally maintained by civilians, I served as Project Manager, Maintenance Manager, Night Shift Supervisor and Quality Assurance Manager/ISO Management Representative. Companies included General Dynamics, Lockheed-Martin, McDonnell-Douglas, Boeing and Sikorsky.

I left in 2003 to open a document destruction company. The company failed in December 2007. Fortunately I was able to secure a position with Northrop Grumman in their contract to maintain radar and aircraft tracking systems on the ranges at Yuma, El Centro and Miramar as a Quality Assurance / Safety Evaluator and ISO Auditor.



Don & Marny 2005

Places visited: Japan, Okinawa, Viet Nam, Hawaii, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Philippines, South Korea, Thailand and Singapore.

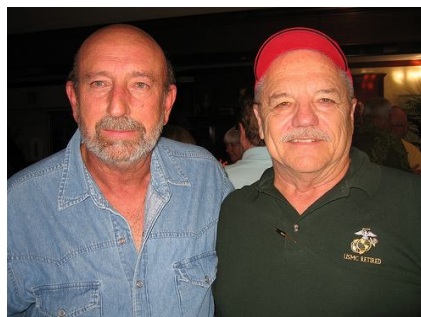
Greatest joys: Marny, our kids and grandkids, being able to care for our parents in the last years of their lives and being a Scoutmaster for 15 years.

Biggest disappointment: None

A personal note: All kids are grown and we have been blessed with eight grandchildren and have our oldest granddaughter, Madison (10 yrs old) living with us. We continue to count our blessings – as we are given every day



*Marny & Don 1986
Marine Corps Ball*



*Old Friend, Jay Beard '63 & Don
All Class Reunion - October 2008*