



Jim Gillespie, 2007: 1958 -1959 University of Toledo; 1959-1971 United States Navy (AT-1) VP squadrons at NAS North Island CA and Moffett Field, CA; 1971-1974 University of Toledo (BBA,MBA); 1974-1983 EHA Group, Toledo; 1983-1986 Astralloy, Birmingham, AL; 1986-2006 Realty South, Birmingham, AL; 2006-?? Real Estate Educator, Semi Retired

It kind of reads like an obit, doesn't it?

Like many in our class, I started at UT when I graduated; but quickly discovered that I was not ready to focus on the demands of college. The Navy gave me the freedom to see and do things I had never imagined – Guam, the Philippines, Okinawa, Japan, Hong Kong, Formosa, Taiwan, with a bit of Viet Nam and the South China Sea for seasoning.

After basic, I was transferred to Memphis for Avionics training. That's where I met the "Joy" of my life at the USO. We married in July 1960 and moved to California. In 1964, we had our first son, Jim. I was deployed to Westpac in November. In 1966, we had our second son, Sean. I made a second trip to Westpac before I was transferred to what would be my final command, a training center for replacement flight crews going to Pacific commands.

In December, 1971, I left the Navy. We moved back to Toledo and I finished my BBA Marketing in 1973 and my MBA in 1974. I went to work for a local steel plate fabricator as Director of Marketing then VP Marketing. In 1983 I was invited to join a major fabricator in Birmingham, AL. Joy, the boys and I had a couple family meetings and decided the timing was perfect for another major move, so off we went.

By 1986 it was clear that the metal working industry was not going to recover – that led to the last major career change. I joined a local real estate company and with Joy as my partner, started to build our business. In 1988, I was asked to start a real estate school for my company and that has been a part of my real estate career ever since. Since retiring from the school in 2006, Joy and I have relaxed a bit. I still teach for several different groups around the state, and we still list and sell some property in the local market. We play, we work, and we just plain goof off some.

By the way... Jim fell in love with a Birmingham girl, Barbara, and they married in 1986. Jim currently works for Target Stores in Huntsville, AL. Sean was already somewhat serious about a Toledo girl, Donna, and in 1987 moved back to Toledo. Since then he has worked for ICI Paints and currently handles the Home Depot account. They live in Dallas, GA. We have six grandchildren – four from Jim & Barb (Maegan, Bethany, David, & Lauren), and two from Sean and Donna (Morgan & Conner). We also were blessed in March 2007 with our first Great Grandbaby when Maegan and her husband Shawn gave us Skyler. We try to visit each family 3 or 4 times a year; but it's hard to fit into their hectic schedules!

Life has been very good to us... We have been truly blessed!

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