

Born 1949, Twin Falls Idaho

Both parents from farm families; father was a welder at Tacoma ship yard when WWII broke out, he joined the Army as a Combat Engineer and landed at Utah Beach on D-Day, fought in many battles in the war. Recalled for Korean War. Sent to Vietnam as Sergeant Major, retired 1969.

Bob grew up second of four kids. Army family. We moved a lot. Life centered on family, Church, Boy Scouts, School.

Wanted to be an astronaut, so the path was: Engineering degree and Fighter Pilot.

AF ROTC scholarship Texas A&M University, Squadron Commander in Corps of Cadets, Distinguished Military Graduate, Aerospace Engineering, 1971.

1971 Pilot Training at Laughlin AFB, graduated sixth, asked for and got an assignment to the 23 TFW, England AFB, Louisiana, flying the new A-7D.

Top Gun of A-7 class. After A-7 training, assigned to the 3rd TFS, Korat Air Base, Thailand, in June, 1973 Our squadron had picked up the 'Sandy' Search and Rescue role. Flew combat missions in Laos and Cambodia in support of U.S. allies.

1974 Back to England AFB. Was Wing Top Gun for two years based on all gunnery; dive-bombing and strafe. Selected by Wing Commander to fly in the initial cadre of the F-15 Eagle at Langley AFB, Va. Flew this jet for 15 years without a break.

1976 Married Barbara Fawcett, an Air Force nurse from the Pittsburgh area, flew at Langley until April 1977.

1977-80 Bitburg AB, Germany. Instructor pilot, Flight Commander, F-15A. Training and Air Defense Alert.

1980-1983 Instructor in the RTU (training wing) at Luke AFB, Arizona. Standardization/Evaluation Pilot

1983-1986 Major, Tactical Air Command Standardization/Evaluation. A flying job that allowed me to visit all F-15 bases for evaluation and training. Formulated Standardization for all F-15s in TAC. Revised the Flight Manual. As 'Systems Engineer,' participated with contractors in designing the controls and displays for follow-on improvements to the Eagle, including the AMRAAM missile.

1986-1991 Major, Lieutenant Colonel. Operations Officer, then Squadron Commander of the 426th TFS, a training squadron full of highly experienced instructors and new fighter pilots. Ended up as Assistant Director of Operations, 405th Tactical Training Wing.

Selected for Naval War College, turned it down based on family issues and future non-flying assignments.

Retired at 20 years with 4000 fighter hours; 1000 in the A-7D, 3000 in the F-15 Eagle.

1991-2014 Pilot, American Airlines. DC-10 Engineer for six months, then MD-80 FO and Captain for 22 years. 14,000 hours.

Barb and I have been very happily married for almost 50 years. We have two kids, a daughter, Katie, who is an Attorney for the U.S. State Department; now in the Consulate Office in Cambodia. Their children are 10 and 12.

Our son Bryan is an American Airlines FO on the Airbus. He and his wife live locally and they have two children, 2 and 4.

Hobbies: Extensive overseas travel, Pickleball, Cycling, Oil Painting, Reading.

I've won many awards for my paintings, including a second place in an American Airlines art contest. In the last three years, I've won 15 ribbons at the State Fair of Texas. In 2025, I won 3 Firsts, a Second, a Third and a 'Best of Show.' I've painted dozens of aviation pictures and many are still hanging in squadrons all over the U.S.