

Spotlight on Bill Reeves

I was born on April 15, 1943 in Riverside, California at Riverside Community Hospital. Up until I was 11 years old my family and I lived on a small ranch with minimal livestock and a huge garden. In 1954 we moved to Azusa so my father could be closer to his work in Los Angeles.

I attended Valleydale School through grade eight. In 1957 I enrolled at the new Azusa High School and graduated in June 1961. I had many enjoyable times at Valleydale and Azusa High, but my fondest memory is of time spent in the California Cadet Corps.

In my freshman year I began at the rank of Cadet. Four years later I graduated from Azusa's 146th Battalion as its Battalion Commander with rank of Senior Lt. Colonel in the State of California by order of the Governor. My experience in the Cadet Corps set the stage for active service in the U.S. Marine Corps and a future career in law enforcement.



1961 – California Cadet Corps.

Life after Azusa High School

After high school I attended Mt. San Antonio College, worked some minor jobs and in 1962 I enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps.

I went through twelve weeks of basic training at MCRD San Diego and then on to Camp Pendleton for six weeks of Infantry training. Upon completion I was sent to a staging area to await orders to a new duty station in Kaneohe, Hawaii on the island of Oahu. By then I had been promoted to Private First-class. Upon my arrival at Kaneohe Marine Air Station I was assigned to a Mortar platoon in 3rd Battalion 4th Marine Regiment of the First Marine Brigade. After a few short months I was reassigned to Brigade Schools at Guerilla Warfare School and was soon promoted to Lance Corporal. I became an assistant Instructor and driver for the commanding officer, Major Archie Van Winkle, who was a Medal of Honor recipient from the Korean War. Sometime later I was promoted to Corporal and given full instructor status.



1962 – PFC Infantry Training

A few months after that I was returned to my Mortar Unit and shipped to Okinawa en route to South Viet Nam in 1965. We landed on a beach near the old capitol city of Hue and held a perimeter around a large Airfield for couple of months, then moved on to other assignments. After my tour of duty I returned to the States and was stationed at El Toro, CA and was soon promoted to the rank of Sergeant. I worked briefly as a Brig Warden and finished my enlistment at Camp Del Mar as a troop handler and barracks Sergeant at the School's Battalion for the new kids on the block who were headed for South Viet Nam. I was Honorably Discharged in Nov. 1966.

For a while I worked with the Southern Pacific Railroad as a brakeman and then enrolled at Pasadena City College where I studied Police Sciences. Upon graduation I was hired by the City of Glendora and sworn in as an Officer on April 2nd, 1969. I later attended and graduated from the L.A. County Sheriff's Academy and was assigned to the Patrol Division where I worked as a patrolman for a couple of years.



1984 – Glendora Police Department

Then I reenrolled at Mt. San Antonio College and received an AS Degree in Criminal Justice. Soon I was promoted to Police Agent and Training Officer where I trained eleven regular officers and four reserves including two of Burton Franks' brothers. Not too long after that I was promoted to Detective.

In 1979 I left Law Enforcement as it became too much for the family to handle, and I pursued a career in the related field of Industrial Security. At first I worked as a security agent for a large market chain and then entered the field of Private Investigation in San Diego for a while. In 1989 I accepted a job in Mall Security at large regional mall in Escondido where I eventually became the Asst. Security Director. In 1991 I was promoted to Security Director and was transferred to a large regional mall in Carlsbad, California. The next few years proved to be a great experience for me and I enjoyed it immensely. Needless to say I am very proud of my accomplishments during my tenure.



1997 – Carlsbad Mall Security



2002 – Rancho Santa Fe Security

I was later employed by the Rancho Santa Fe Association, along with nine other officers, to patrol and maintain security for one of the wealthiest communities in the U.S. Our department was charged with protecting the residents who were mostly comprised of celebrities, sports figures and notable political personalities. My security career recently ended on April 18th, 2009 when I elected to retire from the Association.

It was a very enjoyable and rewarding career-- being able to help those at their time of need and protect them from potential harm. In closing I am proud to have served my country and the communities in which I have resided. Now it's time to relax. I'm looking forward to playing more golf, fishing and traveling the country. I also plan to spend more time with friends and loved ones.



1995 – Bill and Ninja



2003 – Green River fishing trip

You can read this bio and all previous alumni bios at <http://www.azusahighschool1961.com/Pages/bios.html>