

Ron Bowman

I was born on 11 January 1950 in our family doctors clinic in Farmington New Mexico. We lived in Shiprock, New Mexico at the time and I spent my first eight years living on or near the Navajo Reservation. I attended Farmington High School, graduating in 1968 where I participated in Baseball, Wrestling and Track; winning a State Championship in Wrestling my Senior year.

I was the first graduate from FHS to attend the U.S. Naval Academy where I matriculated after a year at NAPS with the great Class of 1973 and the “hardcore” 24th Company.

My first assignment after graduation was to USS Claud Jones DE1033 homeported in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. After two SPECOPS deployments on Jones, PCS to USS Knox FF1052, two WESTPAC deployments on her, Including participating in the evacuation of Saigon, tours as ASWO, Navigator, COMMO, OVHL Coord, and the birth of my daughter, I transferred to Commander 7th Flt Staff aboard USS Oklahoma in 1977 homeported in Yokosuka, Japan.

In 1978, after numerous ‘show the flag’ Port visits, and the birth of my son, I transferred to Dept Head School in Newport RI, followed by assignment to USS Edward McDonald DE 1043 as Weapons Officer in Mayport FL where I made two MED Deployments.

From there I was assigned as Chief Engineer aboard USS NITRO AE 23 that was returning from a MED Deployment to its home port of Earle NJ after a major engineering fire. We spent two years in Overhaul in Brooklyn NY Shipyards, and REFTRA in Guantanamo, Cuba. Just before deployment I received orders to the Admissions Department, U.S. Naval Academy where I was responsible for evaluating, monitoring progress, preparing qualified applicants records for the Admissions Board, and making Offers of Appointment to those selected. During my tour I received my Masters Degree in Information Systems Management from University of Maryland.

I met Lynn while running on the indoor track at Halsey. She was working as a civilian employee in the Engineering & Weapons Department as a Systems Programmer at the time. We were married in 1988.

My next tour was Tactical Action Officer, USS Guadalcanal LPH 7 in Norfolk VA. Our first deployment ended up being redirected to the Persian Gulf via Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean. The remainder of the deployment was spent escorting tankers in and out of the Straits of Hormuz.

From Guadalcanal, I went to Bureau of Personnel in Washington D.C for two tours. I retired from the Navy in April 1993 and took a position in the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Human Resources Division. From there I moved to Special Assistant to the Deputy Director for Human Resources for Department of the Interior.

In 2001 was offered a position at NASA as Project Manager for a new information management system being implemented across the organization. I retired from NASA in 2008 .

Ride-2-Remember Rider

Throughout my career I have continued my passion for running and fitness. I began participating in marathons and triathlons early in my career. While at NASA I also became a Certified Personal Trainer, Certified Triathlon Coach and Race Director. After retiring from NASA, I became a full time coach and Race Director. I coached over 500 runners to successfully complete their first marathon while continuing to compete in endurance races myself; including six 100 Mile Races and five IRONMAN distance triathlons, including the IRONMAN CHAMPIONSHIP HAWAII. To date I have completed 135 marathons, 137 ultra-marathons, and 128 triathlons.

My passion for testing my endurance and desire to recognize Classmates we have lost along the way inspired me to join the Ride 2 Remember adventure.

