



Robert A. Stier



I was born and raised in the Waterbury, Connecticut area and received a congressional appointment to the Class of 1968. In a quirk of fate, that year a fifth appointment was awarded to each congressman –the only way I got in. My first squadron was CS-06, and that year we were the “Honor Squadron.” Due to attrition in CS-01, I was assigned there for my third class year. The second-class year was the big reshuffle and I moved to CS-09. The cadet wing expanded to 30 squadrons for my first class year, so moved to CS-26. As a point of interest, in designing the CS-26 patch, I called and talked to Charles Schultz and got his permission to use Snoopy. I graduated on June 5, 1968, and was married on Saturday, June 8.

I went through pilot training at Laughlin AFB, TX. At graduation, I was assigned to C-130's. After training at Sewart AFB TN, I arrived at my first duty assignment, the 443rd TAS, Clark AB, Philippines, in January 1970. In the next 30 months, I accrued over 1,800 hours – mostly flying in Viet Nam: 15 days flying in-country out of Cam Ranh Bay, 7 days home. In August 1972, I rotated to the states to SAC and B-52H's at Grand Forks AFB ND, as a copilot, pilot, instructor and Stan/Eval. In July 1977, I entered AFIT at Wright-Patterson AFB, Dayton OH and graduated 15 months later with a degree in Logistics Management. A directed-duty to aircraft maintenance at March AFB CA followed in 1978. While there I was the maintenance supervisor in the 22nd OMS then commander of the 22nd AMS. Back to the cockpit for a year in B-52D's as in instructor, then in 1982, back to Grand Forks in the 319th BMW Consolidated Command Post followed by commander of the 319th AMS and commander of the 319th FMS. In 1985, moved to Offutt AFB for a tour in SAC Headquarters in aircraft maintenance. My last assignment was at Ellsworth AFB SD as Deputy Commander for Maintenance, Logistics Group Commander and Vice Wing Commander. After a 25th wedding anniversary trip to work for Mother Theresa in Calcutta, India, I retired from the USAF in September 1994.

After retirement I worked 18 years as a Director of Production then Product Development for First Data Resources. I was ordained a deacon in the church in 1998, and since then have been busy with church related functions as well as visiting the sick and elderly. I live in Papillion, NE.

The AF journey was challenging, rewarding and a lot of work but enjoyable. In addition to contributing to the country it prepared me well for my “second half of life.” I hope you have that same fulfillment; it'll be a great journey.