

Downingtown Good Neighbor Christmas Inc.

CHRISTMAS PARADE GRAND MARSHAL

Charles “Bud” W. Bruton, Jr.

JACQUE AND I HAVE LIVED IN THE DOWNINGTOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT SINCE 1968. I WAS BORN AND RAISED IN DOWNINGTOWN, LIVING ON EAST LANCASTER AVENUE FROM WHERE I WALKED AND DROVE TO DOWNINGTOWN SCHOOLS, GRADUATING IN THE CLASS OF 1960.

I THEN ATTENDED PERKIOMEN SCHOOL IN PENNSBURG PA THEN OFF TO WASHINGTON AND JEFFERSON COLLEGE IN WASHINGTON PA. W&J OFFERED ARMY ROTC WHICH HAD A FLIGHT PROGRAM. THE ROTC FLIGHT PROGRAM PAID FOR FLIGHT SCHOOL AT THE LOCAL AIRPORT YOUR SENIOR YEAR GIVING YOU A PRIVATE PILOTS LICENCE. ALL I EVER REALLY WANTED TO DO WAS FLY AND THE ARMY HAD THE PROGRAM FOR ME.

FLYING WAS MY PRIMARY FOCUS WHILE ACADEMICS WAS SECONDARY, I WAS SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT THEN MOST STUDENTS THAT WENT TO W&J.

DURING THE SUMMERS WHILE IN COLLEGE, I WORKED AT PEPPERIDGE FARM ON CHESTNUT STREET IN THE BREAD DIVISION. THATS WHERE I MET MY WIFE TO BE JACQUELINE RISSELL, SHE WAS A SUMMER EMPLOYEE AS WELL WORKING ON THE ROLL LINE WHILE ATTENDING WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY

WE WERE MARRIED IN JUNE OF 1966 AND BEING COMMISSIONED AS A 2ND LIEUTENANT WE WERE OFF TO ARMOR OFFICER SCHOOL AT FORT KNOX KENTUCKY. FROM THERE OFF TO FLIGHT SCHOOL AT FORT STEWART GEORGIA AND THEN TO FORT RUCKER ALABAMA WITH THE NEXT STOP TO VIETNAM.

WHILE I WAS ON MY 30-DAY LEAVE, WE BOUGHT A HOME ON LLOYD AVE. WHEN WE MOVED IN, I GOT TO SLEEP IN IT FOR ONE NIGHT BEFORE LEAVING FOR VIETNAM. JACQUE WAS ON HER OWN WITH ONE BOY AND ANOTHER ON THE WAY AND OUR LARGE GERMAN SHEPPARD ONYX.

JUNE OF 68 TILL JUNE OF 69 I FLEW AN AIRCRAFT CALLED AN O-1 BIRDDOG. WHAT DO BIRDDOG DO? IT HUNTS AND FLYING MY BIRDDOG OUR MISSION WAS TO HUNT THE ENEMY. ONCE I FOUND THEM, I WOULD DIRECT AIR STRIKES, ARTILLERY AND NAVAL GUNFIRE TO NEUTRALIZE THEM. IT WAS A CAT AND MOUSE GAME. THEY HID AND WE HUNTED AND UNTIL THEY KNEW THAT WE KNEW WHERE THEY WERE THEY WOULD DO EVERYTHING THEY COULD SHOOT YOU DOWN.

DURING MY TIME IN VIETNAM, I WAS AWARDED THE DFC, A BRONZE STAR, AN AIR MEDAL WITH 20 OAK LEAF CLUSTERS, THE VIETNAM HONOR MEDAL, AND THE ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL ALONG WITH OTHERS. MY TOTAL COMBAT FLIGHT TIME IN VIETNAM WAS IN EXCESS OF 850 HOURS IN THE AIR.

CAPTAIN U.S. ARMY

SENIOR ARMY AVIATOR (MORE THAN 3200 HOURS)

DUAL RATED IN FIXED WING AND ROTARY WING AIRCRAFT

VIETNAM JUNE OF 68 TILL JUNE OF 69

220TH RECONNAISSANCE AIRPLANE COMPANY

PHU BAI VIETNAM

CALL SIGN (CATKILLER 27/18)



I BECAME A CIVILIAN AGAIN IN 1970. I WORKED OUT OF MY HOME ON LLOYD AVENUE TO BEGIN BUILDING MY FINANCIAL PLANNING BUSINESS. I JOINED THE PENNSYLVANIA NATIONAL GURARD AND WAS ABLE TO CONTINUE TO FLY WHERE I TRANSITIONED INTO ROTARY WING AND FIXED WING AIRCRAFT.

IT WAS THE BEST FLYING CLUB IN THE WORLD. I COULD FLY SOME OF THE BEST AIRCRAFT ANYTIME I WANTED. NO ONE SHOT AT YOU AND BELIEVE IT OR NOT YOU GOT CAPTAINS PAY. IT WAS FANTASTIC!

JACQUE AND I HAVE BEEN MARRIED FOR 60 YEARS AND HAVE FIVE SONS. WE HAVE BEEN BLESSED WITH 13 GRANDCHILDREN. EVERYONE LIVES IN CHESTER COUNTY AND WE HAVE ENJOYED WATCHING THEM GROW OVER THE YEARS. HOLIDAYS ARE THE GREATEST.

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OVER THE YEARS WE HAVE ATTENDED SEVERAL LOCAL CHURCHES AND NOW ATTEND THE CALVERY CHAPEL OF CHESTER SPRINGS. IN 1990, I STARTED TO DO MISSION WORK IN PUERTO RICO REPAIRING A CHURCH CAMP IN THE MOUNTAINS THAT WAS DESTROYED BY HURRICANE HUGO. I RETURNED ANNUALLY UNTIL 2002. SINCE THAT TIME I HAVE BEEN GOING TO VIETNAM.

MY TRIPS TO VIENTAM WERE WITH OTHER VETS. OUR MISSION WAS TO BUILD AND HEAL AND NOT DESTROY.

I HAVE RETURNED 16 TIMES SINCE 2002. UNCLE SAM PAID ALL THE EXPENSES IN 1968 BUT I HAVE PICKED UP THE TAB FOR THE OTHER TRIPS SINCE.

IN 1970 I OPENED A FINANCIAL PLANNING BUSINESS WORKING FROM MY HOME ON LLOYD AVE IN DOWNINGTOWN. WE GREW THE FINANCIAL PLANNING BUSINESS OVER THE YEARS AND IN 2014 WE CREATED THE REGISTERED INVESTMENT ADVISORY FIRM BRUTON FINANCIAL ADVISORS WHICH IS NOW KNOWN AS BRUTON CHISNELL ADVISORS ON LANCASTER AVENUE IN DOWNINGTOWN. THREE OF MY FIVE SONS HAVE BEEN IN PRACTICE FOR MANY YEARS AND THEY AQUIRED THE FIRM WHEN I RETIRED AROUND SIX YEARS AGO, THE PRACTICE CONTINUES TO GROW EVEN WITHOUT ME THERE.” HOW CAN THAT BE?

THEY NOW HAVE ALSO OPENED AN OFFICE IN AAKRON OHIO WITH THE CORPORATE NAME CHANGING TO BRUTON CHISNELL ADVISORS.

AS I LOOK BACK OM MY LIFE IN DOWNINGTOWN, I REALIZED THAT THE BRUTON NAME HAS BEEN A TRUSTED NAME ON LANCASTER AVENUE FOR MORE THAN THREE GENERATIONS.

MY FATHER WAS A PHYSICAN IN DOWNINGTOWN STARTING HIS PRACTICE IN 1938 ON LANCASTER AVE. I WAS BORN AND RAISED THERE AND OPENED MY OFFICES ON LANCASTER AVENUE. ONE OF MY SONS NOW LIVES ON LANCASTER AVE. DOWNINGTOWN HAS BEEN A PART OF OUR FAMILY FOR THREE GENERATIONS WITH THE FOURTH GENERATION IN THE WINGS TO CONTINUE THE FAMILY TRADITION.

AS I REFLECT ON MY RELATIONSHIP WITH DOWNINGTOWN. THE EVENT THAT GIVES ME THE MOST SATISFACTION IS THAT I WAS ABLE TO REVIVE THE ORIGINAL DOWNINGTOWN GOOD NEIGHBOR DAY ON THE 4TH OF JULY.

IT HAS GROWN OVER THE LAST 45 YEARS TO NOW HAVING THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE PARTICIPATING IN THE VARIOUS EVENTS FROM THE RUN IN THE MORNING TO THE CANOE RACE IN THE AFTERNOON WITH FIREWORKS TO CLOSE THE DAY. ALL THIS WITH THE NET RESULTS DONATED TO ALL THE FIRE COMPANIES IN THE DOWNINGTOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRECT EACH YEAR.

I ALSO LIKE THE DAY BECAUSE IT IS HELD IN FRONT OF THE VETERANS MEMORIAL WITH THE GRAND FLAG FLYING. IT'S NICE TO KNOW THAT DOWNINGTOWN CARES AND HAS THE NAMES OF ALL OF US ARE ON THE VETERANS WALL.

IT IS AN HONOR AND FOR ALL OF US TO BE:

“WELCOMED HOME”