



Bio – Tom Gorski

After Burgess I went to the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque on a Navy ROTC scholarship. I admittedly partied a great deal the first couple years (Kappa Sigma animal house frat was great fun). Dropped the scholarship and continued school, supporting this activity by working. First job was with Southwest Air Rangers and while there I gained a private pilot's license. Then came a job at Trans World Airlines as a ticket agent – a small beginning for what turned out to be a 33 year career with many positions that took me to St. Louis, Chicago, Los Angeles, Washington DC, Norfolk VA, New York City, and then St. Louis again where I took early retirement in 1999. My last assignment was Vice President of Airport Operations. I retired to take a position with Catholic Charities in St. Louis as Chief Operating Officer. Years earlier, in 1979 in Chicago, I was ordained a Roman Catholic Deacon and the 10 years spent with Catholic Charities was more of a mission movement than a job change. I retired from Catholic Charities in 2009 and have declined further employment opportunities as I am quite happy to pursue other interests. One of them is writing and I have completed one novel and several other efforts in various genres. While friends who have read my stuff encourage publishing I am reminded of one of my favorite songs ("Mr. Tanner" by the late Harry Chapin) where some things you do just for the sake of doing them because they make you feel whole. Listen to the words of the song and you'll get my drift. Besides, we already have a published author in our class (Ellen Heath). I also enjoy golf (if I get a bit older I may manage to shoot my age as my dad once did – he was 71 at the time) and I ride my bicycle several times a week for 15 -20 mile jaunts (but not in winter here of course).

During my first transit of St. Louis (1968 to 1973) I met and married my wife of now 43 years, Elsie. We eloped three months after meeting on a blind date. We have two children (Marie and Josh) and both are married with children (Marie has Eli, 10, and Scarlet, 7...Josh has Orion, 2 months). It is one of my true joys to do child care with Eli and Scarlet since they live in St. Louis. My father is alive and kicking in Riverside CA at age 92 having buried two wives (my mom in 1994 and his second wife in 2006). My brother Robert who some of you may remember as a Burgess freshman in a wheelchair from childhood polio lives in Pasadena CA and handles all accessibility issues for that city and my sister resides in San Diego CA.

Unfortunately it does not appear that I will manage to get to El Paso in September. I would have enjoyed seeing the lack of physical change in all of you during the past 50 years. Admittedly my hair would need a touch up to eliminate the salt and pepper look. Thanks to your reunion efforts I made contact with Lynn Baker earlier this year after 50 years, I've done periodic emails with Dale Doan, and I've enjoyed reading the various bios that have been submitted.

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