



Yellowstone Park



Grand Tetons



Souix Falls, SD

God has been good to me. After graduation I found myself attempting to enlist in the Air Force. However, as it turns out I was awarded a scholarship to Texas Western College in the music department about the same time. I chose to go to college.

It was during the height of the Viet Nam era and a college deferment was a gift. I received a Bachelors of Music from the University of Texas at El Paso and begin my teaching career immediately with the Ysleta Independent School District.

Much to my chagrin, Uncle Sam informed me that as a music teacher, music education was not essential to the defense of our nation and was drafted. I protested, became angry and just to show them who was boss, I enlisted, under my terms, or so I thought. I am proud of the fact that I served a year in Vietnam with the 1st Air Cavalry Division Headquarters Company in Phuc Vin and Bien Hoa. I completed my service at Ft. Benning, Ga. and came home to El Paso to begin my career as an educator.

Riverside Middle School was my first band directing job. Within two years I was appointed Head Band Director for Riverside High School and established one of the premier band programs in the city with a 280 member band.

After receiving my Masters in Education Administration, I became an elementary assistant principal. I then moved on with an appointment as Director of Fine Arts for the Ysleta I.S.D. . After serving in that capacity for about 5 or 6 years, I was appointed as principal at Parkland Middle School. After 5 years I became principal at Eastwood Knolls School until I retired in June, 2004.

It was during this time in my career that I was involved with professional organizations. I was an officer of the Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association and served as State President 1995-96, I was elected as Texas State Representative for the National Association of Elementary School Principals 1997-2001. I have also served in many committees at the local, state and national levels.

In 1972 I received another blessing. I met, courted and married Jan McLeod, my life-long friend and lover. How she has tolerated me for 42 years is beyond my comprehension. We have a daughter, Jana Jill Rivera-Hacker (Josh) and a son, Samuel Ray Rivera, wife Amanda and grandson, Gavin Ray. After retiring in 2004, we toured the greater part of the USA in our motor home. With my wife's encouragement I took up carving. I think I am fairly good at it and proud to say that.

I am still involved in education and am currently the Director of the T-STEM Academy at Parkland High School. It is an engineering magnet school. I hope to continue in God's blessings and see you all at the Burges reunion.

Ramon (Ray) Rivera