

January, 2017 by Tim Comin



Eisenhower Golf Course At AFA (L), Baseball Game in Charlotte, NC

After attending the AFA Prep School in 1963, I washed out of the Academy in Spherical Calculus (ugh!) after our 3rd Class year. I played basketball at the Prep School and during my freshman year at the Academy.

I graduated from the University of Tennessee (UT) in Knoxville and then earned a MBA from UT. The GI Bill paid for both my undergraduate and MBA Business degrees.

In 1970, I began my banking career in Nashville, TN, and retired in banking 44 years later in Charlotte, NC. During that time, my wife, Barbara, and I also lived in Sarasota, FL, working for banks. I held mid-level management positions in Marketing, Credit, Operations, and Risk/Compliance. Although I enjoyed the challenges in banking and the people I worked with, the most meaningful part of my career was the people I met and became friends with outside of banking. I also enjoyed working out in the Charlotte Bank's Fitness Center and was selected by the staff as Member of the Month in February, 2010. My mother-in-law thought it was a hoot that a 66 year-old person could get that award!

In terms of my personal life, I got married in 1970, and after a short marriage, we divorced. I became a youth advisor in the Episcopal Church in 1970 and continued for another 18 years! I have been an advisor for 5 youth building construction/Bible-study mission trips to Costa Rica between 1980 and 2003. On my last weeklong mission trip, we hand-dug the footings and built the rebar foundation for the home of the mission church's Rector.

During a 1984 national church youth event in Oklahoma City, I met my present wife, Barbara, who was a church youth advisor in Chattanooga. Our youth groups drove together 2 ½ days to Oklahoma City from Nashville. One of the pre-requisites of the youth event was to construct a banner, which our team would walk behind in the opening church service. On the last night of the drive to Oklahoma City, I was quite concerned (panicked) that we didn't even have a banner theme. Barbara not only came up with the theme but also sketched out the design and almost single-handedly constructed the banner! After being divorced for 11 years, I thought—this is a special lady! We were married in 1986 and just celebrated our 30th wedding anniversary with a bike trip from Prague to Vienna. In 2013, Barbara retired from Bank of America in Charlotte.

Unfortunately, we were not blessed with children but have had 5 great dogs to give us plenty of love. We have great families—my sister and my brother-in-law both live in San Francisco; and Barbara's mother lives in Boston. Both of my parents are deceased.

Our great passion is travel. In 2015, we took a bike trip through Puglia, Italy; and in 2016, a bike trip from Prague to Vienna. We've planned a bike trip from Brussels to Amsterdam in 2017. We also took European river cruises in 2015 and 2016. Our favorite place for R & R is Hilton Head, SC, where Barbara reads about 4 books; and I play tennis every day during our week's stay.

After retirement in September, 2014, I have stayed busy exercising—cycle spinning classes 3 times per week plus an aerobics class each

week at our local YMCA, playing singles/doubles tennis each week, and hitting golf balls every other week at our local driving range.

In 2017, we are excited to be moving into the Plantation Estates Expansion Community, a Continuing Care Retirement Community in Matthews, NC, which is a suburb of Charlotte.

Barbara and I have been truly blessed in our life together—with great friends and family and good health.