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Randy Bimrose

Marines Corps

1965-1986

2016

Randy Bimrose

The story of Randy Bimrose began in 1946 when he was born in Oakland Ca. As a child Mr. Bimrose was raised along with his brother in Castro Valley and Fremont. He graduated from Irvington High School in 1964, then went on to attend nearly a year of college. Picking up an interest of flying, the college was offering a program for it. To his disappointment they had dropped the program and Randy was never able to pursue it. Soon leading was his decision to withdraw from college and heroically volunteer for the military. Randy's uncle had served in WWII and Korea as an aviator, which played a large role in his reasons for enlisting in the Marines.

In 1965 Mr. Bimrose joined the Marine Corps at the age of nineteen, beginning his twenty year long journey of contributing to the fight for our nation. Randy had felt that the Marines were the most unified of the branches, which was an additional cause for him having become one. To start off his training, Mr. Bimrose was sent to MCRD (Marine Corps Recruit Depot) in San

Diego, CA for boot camp. Having heard many rumors, he was prepared for both the physical and mental challenges that were ahead. Regardless of the struggles he faced Mr. Bimrose remained strong, believing it was nothing he couldn't handle as long as "you listened to what you were told and did it." After boot camp, Randy was sent to the MCB (Marine Corps Base) in Camp Pendleton, CA to be placed in ITR (Infantry Training Regiment) where he received further instruction. The screening test given at enlistment determined what MOS you were assigned, he started to develop a deep interest in guns and the hands on approach in the military. Mr. Bimrose went to Ordnance School at the MCB in Quantico, VA where he earned his start as a 2111 (Infantry Weapons Repairman).

Following Camp Pendleton Mr. Bimrose served in the Vietnam War between January of 1967 to February of 1968 as an Infantry Weapons Repairman, making sure repaired equipment and weapons got back to the unit in time. After returning, from Vietnam he was stationed in the Marine Barracks at the Naval Station in Long Beach, CA from April of 1968 to October of 1969. However Mr. Bimrose chose to go for OJT (On the Job Training) for one year at the MCDEC (Marine Corps Development and Education Command) in Quantico, VA on his first reenlistment. Randy then became a 2112 (Rifle Team Equipment Repairman) one of 36 men in the Marine Corps to support the USMC Pistol and Rifle Teams, of whom he still keeps in touch with today.

Mr. Bimrose was also apart of the MTU (Marines Training Unit) in Quantico, as well as the WTB (Weapons Training Battalion) until he was assigned to several other duty stations, which include Okenawa, Barstow, and El Toro, from August of 1971 all the way to March of 1979 before he was stationed back in Quantico that April. It was at the Ordnance Chiefs School in

Aberdeen, MD where he was promoted, automatically changing his MOS (Marine Occupation Speciality) to 2181 (Senior Ground Ordnance Weapons Chief). It was in 1986 that Mr. Bimrose retired as an E8 Master Sergeant out of consideration of his family, otherwise he would have continued his service for at least another decade. During his time in the Marines, Randy grew as a person as he learned to become a self starter, to respect others, and to “take responsibility for your actions good or bad”. Ultimately Randy went into the military having the mindset that this would be his career unlike many others, which thoroughly explains his success in service.

Randy met his first wife, whom he is now divorced from, at the age of eighteen through a mutual friend. They married in the year of 1966, however shortly after Randy was called into duty for Vietnam and was not able to see her for 13 months. Between 1970 and 1973, Mr. Bimrose had two children, both daughters who are now 43 and 45 with families of their own. His youngest daughter, lives in Florida with a her husband, meanwhile the other lives in Santa Rosa. During the course of his service, Mr. Bimrose stayed in base housing where his family was allowed to reside with him. On leave, Randy was able to relax and liked to take advantage of his ability to travel in the company of his family. He went to many places around the U.S. like Nashville, Tennessee where could embrace the country, and Williamsburg, Virginia where he could appreciate the classic colonial lifestyle they preserved.

After his service, Randy and his family moved from Virginia, where his ex-wife was working, to Northern California, thanks to previous arrangements he got a job as Senior Gunsmith for Beeman Precision Airguns. However the change had a negative impact on their relationship, causing them to drift apart leading to their separation in 1995 and official divorce in 2010. Mr. Bimrose did not have an abundance of friends, however he was very close to Dan Myers, a high

school buddy who was a year younger and who also joined the Marines. Once they were moved out to Camp Pendleton together, they served alongside each other during most of their service. Dan even volunteered to go to Vietnam for Randy, proving his loyalty as a friend. “What can you say about a man that is willing to go to war for you.” Having been closer to him than his own brother, Dan became the second father to Randy’s children up until his tragic passing due to a stroke.

Along with Dan, Mr. Bimrose kept in touch with a few other fellow servicemen. One of which was Executive Officer Major Jim Land, who was the secretary for the National Rifle Administration. He was also known for having started a substantial sniper school in Vietnam. His real name was Edward, but only those who knew him well, knew he liked to go by Jim. Randy could easily identify him from his distinctive voice. Another memorable person in Mr. Bimrose’s service was his commanding officer Colonel Bill McMillan, who was triple distinguished and even won a gold medal in the olympics. He became an instructor for the San Diego Sheriff’s Department, after being shot and was forced to retire from the Olympics . The greatest memory of Randy’s time in the Marines was his return to the Marine Corps Pistol Team and won the National Trophy Team Match in 1980 where he built the weapons and kept them running in the competition. This was very significant because it was 10 years since it happened last. Near the conclusion of his service in the 1980’s, Randy’s mother passed away of cancer while her residence in California, which had been a last wish of hers since she never felt at home anywhere else. Mr. Bimrose received numerous medals in honor of his service. The first one he got was Good Conduct for Assorted Operations meanwhile in his service, and the second one he

received was a Navy Combination following his retirement. Also for his heroic time spent in Vietnam, Mr. Bimrose was given a number of medals.

The day that Randy left the service he felt quite melancholy as he grew to enjoy his time as a Marine. He left active duty in October of 1985, and formally resigned from the military in 1986. A few years later, Mr. Bimrose attended Santa Rosa Junior College with the help of the GI bill and got his Associates Degree in Machine Tool Technology in 1989. Unfortunately the bill had a 25 year cap, and so Randy was unable to get its entire cash value. In the early 90's, Mr. Bimrose made an attempt to volunteer for active service in Kuwait, however his offer was rejected. This was due to the quick completion of the combat. He was the Senior Gunsmith for Beeman Precision Airguns for just over ten years, which was then sold to another company in Huntington Beach, CA. Randy was employed for sometime, then began working at a local gun shop. Recently after he "took a leap" and started his own business titled Bimrose Precision airgun Repair in April of 1999. Then in 2006, he started teaching airgun repair at the gunsmithing colleges such as Susanville, where he taught for about six years, Trinidad State Junior college in Colorado for three years, and an Oklahoma college for a year. Randy enjoys teaching because he feels the students want to learn which inspires him. When Mr. Bimrose served it was very, in the sense that certain rules and regulations regarding treatment were not implemented among serviceman. Compared to his time in the Marines, Randy sees that there is more respect and honor for those in the armed forces which he finds encouraging even though he was not exposed to such negative treatment. He personally experienced this gratitude when a woman had recognized he was a veteran and asked to hug him as a thank you for his service. This was a moment that Mr. Bimrose will forever cherish. After a deep thought about what he

would have done if he had not had the mindset of being in the Marines, Randy remembered that as a young boy scout he was selected to be fire chief for the day. This sparked an interest for him in the fire department which is where he would have ended up if it weren't for the military. Mr. Bimrose felt his service in the military was undoubtedly positive, and is very grateful as the military gave him a sense of purpose and direction.