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Period: 3

Patrick Sweeney
Air Force
30 Years Served
2018

Patrick Sweeney

Patrick Sweeney, a United States Air Force Veteran fought for America for a solid thirty years straight. His father was in the Air Force himself which made Sweeney an Air Force “Brat”, which is a child who serves in the military after a parent. Patrick Sweeney was born in Washington, D.C. on December 5th, 1943, just two years after Pearl Harbor was bombed. He was raised by his mother and his father but moved sometimes due to his dad having to move for years at a time because of being put on assignments in many different areas while serving in the Air Force. He then graduated from Edward’s High School with a class of about 80 other kids. Soon after this, he attended college to further his education and learning.

Sweeney attended Loyola college for law school in Downtown Los Angeles for many years before actually joining the war effort. During this time in college, he met several people including his wife and even Martin Luther King. Sweeney actually contributed in helping with the Civil Rights Act by joining a group named “S.C.O.P.E” which stood for Summer Community Organization and Political Education. In this group, Sweeney alongside King and many others tried to encourage colored students to register to vote. Sweeney was actually trained in order to properly help in these peaceful protests and help others gain their natural rights. During this time in college he changed his life completely when he met his wife. He was in a fraternity which would occasionally hold “Greek Meets”, which were competitions where different fraternity’s

would battle it out in different sports. This one particular time there was a dance competition and all his buddies voted him to dance in it and he says that he told his buddies “I can’t dance if i don’t have a date”. One of his friends then says “It’s alright you can use my date for this dance”. It turns out that he ended up taking his friends date out to a Dodgers game a week later and they end up dating each other and soon got married. They actually just celebrated their 50th anniversary in the summer of 2017. Soon after all of the college fun he had, he entered the Air Force.

Sweeney joined the Air Force as an Air Force lawyer straight out of college because he thought it would be interesting to try at first, also his dad being in the Air Force definitely influenced this idea. He attended the Air Force for four years straight and enjoyed it immensely so ended up doing it for another 26 years. Sweeney was an Air Force lawyer as well as an Air Force judge which means that he would settle disputes that military men had in different places they traveled so that the men could focus on doing their jobs in the Air Force. During this time, he traveled a great deal because him and his wife, Diane Sweeney, thought that it would be extraordinary to see all of the different cultures as Sweeney worked. During this time in the Air Force, him and his wife had seven children in total. They had 2 boys first, then 3 girls, and lastly another 2 boys. Together, they actually adopted their fourth child from Korea because they saw how terrible and rough it really was out there. They traveled to Japan, where Sweeney served as an Air Force judge who would see a variety of cases including theft and a lot of petty crimes that the Air Force would take very seriously and considered as a serious offense. Eventually he would travel back to America to continue some of his days of work and eventually retire.

Sweeney ended up retiring on October 1st, 1999 as a Full Colonel 06 and says that he remembers the exact day. He felt accomplished but did not want to stop entirely. He continued to

work even after he retired from the Air force. He worked in a law firm for twelve years after he retired. He did this because he wanted to get out and do things, and he also was interested in how the cities criminal justice system would handle certain crimes in comparison to how the Air Force handled certain crimes. He ended up discovering that the Air Force definitely takes crimes a lot more seriously than the cities government would. He now lives a happy life with his wife. They have led an adventurous life together and still do continue to lead adventurous lives as best as they possibly can.