

Kathryn Carrillo

Emalea Muller

Period: 3

Russell Temple

U.S. Air Force

30 years

Interviewed: 2018

Russell Temple

On August 23, 1957, Russell Temple was born in the San Fernando Valley. He was raised there till he was fourteen and then moved to Riverside. He attended Hemet high school, graduating in 1975. After high school Temple went to a junior college before heading down to the recruitment office to learn more about joining the service. Temple had brother in laws in the service who introduced him to it. When he signed up he had to wait six months till he actually went to his basic training.

Temple flew out of LAX all the way to San Antonio for his basic training. His group got there late that day and were reached with a warm welcome of metal trash can lids being banged on the floor to wake them up around 8A.M. He went through six weeks of basic training and the men were divided into east and west coast sides. Temple recalls a time when he got into some trouble and while his training instructor was yelling at him, he couldn't help but laugh because of how short the man was compared to himself. During these six weeks he went through basic military training to prepare him for the USAF. After this he was flown to Chicago, Illinois to start his technical training at Chanute Air Force Base.

While in active service for four years, Temple only ever traveled to one other place and he immediately regretted it. Temple traveled to the hot place of El Centro and was there for two days. While there he worked on repairing damaged C - 141s. Shortly after he finished his active duty in 1982. After finishing his active duty, he was transferred to USAF reserves and worked as a mechanic supervisor.

Later on Temple promoted to superintendent in his squadron. He says that this job was easier because he did not have to rush to get the airplanes fixed like he did when he was a mechanic. He describes his last weeks working as very rushed and stressful. He had to finish up a lot of loose ends before he left. Temple says one of the hardest things for him was finding the right person to take over his important job. He wished that his last days were stress free so he could enjoy his last moments in the service.

After he retired in 2012, Temple started volunteering doing police work. One of his favorite pastimes is traveling to Hawaii with his wife. He enjoys spending time with his family and friends. Two of Temple's nephews have joined the Airforce because of him taking him to visit the base while still in the reserves. He hoped that one of his children would have joined for the experience, but he is still happy with what they chose to do. Temple's daughter considered joining the military, but due to the processing period taking so long, she moved on and is now a sheriff.

Temple credits being in the military to making him the man he is today. He says that he would go back into the military in a heartbeat if he could. Working with people is one of the most important things for him. Temple's service for the U.S. military was life changing for him.

He encourages everyone to consider joining the service because of the memorable time he had.

Russell Temple's time in the military is a great accomplishment and service to America.