

VETERAN OF THE MONTH

Richard (Rich) Victor Comiso

Richard (Rich) Victor Comiso was born (1939), raised and educated in northern New Jersey. He graduated from Ridgfield Park High School (1957) and then received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering from Newark College of Engineering (1961). After receiving his degree, Rich worked as a construction field engineer for a small engineer construction company in Rockland County New York.



Rich was drafted into the United States Army (1963), received initial training and served as a Training Platoon Sergeant prior to entering Officer Candidate School. He received a commission in Artillery and served as a Nuclear Weapons Officer in Italy. He then transferred to Army Engineer and made a full career of the Army, completing over twenty-nine years. Rich's troop assignments include three years with nuclear weapons, one year Engineer Company Command in Vietnam, a year as Executive Officer for a composite Engineer Bridge Battalion in Germany and thirty months as Commander of a training battalion at Fort Leonard Wood Missouri. His non-troop assignments include: duties as Flexible Pavements Section Chief/Instructor at the US Army Engineer School; Assistant Professor of Military Science at Rochester Institute of Technology; Engineer Advisor in Saudi Arabia; Project Engineer Ft Bliss TX; Director of Engineering and Housing, Ft Dix NJ; Personnel Staff Officer positions in Headquarters US Army Europe and the Department of the Army at the Pentagon; and Engineer Staff Officer within the Office of the Inspector General at US Army Corps of Engineers. Rich's overseas assignments placed him in Italy, Vietnam, Saudi Arabia and Germany. Stateside assignments were in New Jersey (twice), Missouri (twice), Oklahoma, Texas (twice), Virginia (three times), Kansas, New York, and Washington DC. His military education includes

Artillery Officer Candidate School, Air Defense Battery Commanders Course, Engineer Officer Advanced Course, Army Command and General Staff College and numerous engineer and personnel related staff and management courses. Rich retired as a Lieutenant Colonel from the United States Army in April 1992.

After retiring from the Army, Rich became the Public Relations Director, then Director of Washington Operations for the Army Engineer Association (a non-profit) supporting US Army Engineers. His responsibilities included: office management, public relations programs, Chapter development, advertising and marketing programs, education and seminar programs and industry relations programs. Rich resigned this position in 2005 when he moved to Tellico Village, TN.

Rich is married to the former Barbara Louise Miller of Alexandria VA (and US Air Force family member extraction). They are the parents of three children: daughter, Dawn (husband: Doug Backlund; sons: Brad and Dan) living in Massachusetts; and two sons: Charles (wife Melanie & her three children: Parker, Will and Ellie) living in Virginia and Keith (wife: Lyndsey; daughter: Quinley and son Kade) living in Montana. Rich and Barb moved to Tellico Village from northern Virginia in 2005. They are members of

Tellico Village POA and HOA plus St. Thomas Catholic Church. They are committed to enjoying family, friends, jet skiing, golfing, athletics, exercise, socializing, entertaining, traveling, volunteering and, most importantly, life in general.

Rich is a member of the Army Engineer Association, Association of the United States Army, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign War, Vietnam Veterans of America, Loudon County Veterans Honor Guard, Military Officers Association of America, Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity and Knights of Columbus plus the Tellico Village Retired Military Club (Treasurer) and Tellico Village Citizen Observer Patrol (C.O.P.s). Life is great.