

Member Spotlight

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I was born in Harrisburg, Pa. and grew up on a small farm near Danville, in Northeast Pennsylvania. Living on a farm gave me the opportunities to not only learn how to drive tractors but a variety of motorcycles as well. My younger years and all that I have learned were attributed to my Uncle Walt who recently passed away from an accident at age 70. Walt spent years as a Honda shop foreman, so it made sense that I started my riding experience on a Honda. Five Hondas later Walt decided it was time for me to upgrade from my 1978 CX500 so he purchased the GL1500 I ride now as a gift. Walt is also the reason I am involved in GWRRA. He and every member of PA-H included me in chapter functions when I was home on leave from the US Air Force. So naturally, I thought that if it was good enough for him and if all GWRRA members were half as nice, hey, count me in! Everyone should have an uncle like him!

I retired from the USAF in 2001 as an Aircraft Maintenance Specialist in the rank of E-7 MSgt. There were 9 permanent duty stations in 20 years and who knows how many temporary ones. As you would expect, there are many highlights in my military career but none are as important to me as my children. Michelle, Dessinie, and Joshua have continually given me reason to stick out my chest with pride. Michelle is in nursing school, Dessinie is completing her International Baccalaureate Degree (during high school) en route to her studies in Applied Behavioral Science, and Joshua has his own battles with Autism. So next time you see him, stop and be sure to get him to speak with you. You'll be amazed!

Now in my post military life I am trying to take time to enjoy things more. The purchase of my first home and the fact that my daughters told me they aren't moving again, helped me decide to plant roots here in the San Antonio area. My employment as an aviation instructor with St. Philip's College Southwest Campus takes up most of my time. However, TX- "U" is my first choice to spend my (spare) time. Now coming full circle, the members from PA-H have a tough road ahead of them if they wish to keep pace with us. My experience with GWRRA TX-"U" has been simply outstanding! I owe this to the membership and staff that keeps a very active schedule so that there is something going on when I have time to participate. Recently, I have had the pleasure to start riding with Lana as my co-rider. This is a new area for us but one that we both enjoy tremendously. I hope that we continue to ride together for many happy years to come! **Lana's Member Spotlight is next.**

I am a military brat born in Germany. Spent all my childhood in Europe and I still love to travel and meet other people. My parents are from New Jersey but they decided to retire in Texas along with myself and two brothers; Alex and Steve. I graduated from James Madison High School. Originally, my major in College was business. I owned an office cleaning company for a while and worked as a teacher's aide during the day. My life suddenly changed, when I returned from a trip and ended up in an emergency room, very ill. It was then that I knew nursing was what I wanted to do with my life. Some days are more challenging than other but I can't imagine doing anything else. I love being a nurse and currently work for a pharmaceutical company as a nurse educator. Recently a good friend of mine introduced me to Dave and her match making efforts paid off. Dave has since introduced me to GWRRA; TX-"U" to be more specific, where we have attended several functions together and made great friendships. I was not new to motorcycles but it had been a long time since I had ridden anything as luxurious as the Goldwing. I am really looking forward to more activities and rides with everyone soon!

