

SOTC – OPERATION BARNABAS
Veteran of the Month Prayer Card
January 2024
Phil Kirchoff



US NAVY: 1975 - 2004

Phil grew up in Stuttgart, AR, just outside of Little Rock. While attending the University of Arkansas, a recruiter convinced Phil to join the Navy in the pilot program. Phil had basic training in Pensacola, FL. While undergoing flight training at NAS Whiting Field, FL, Phil lost a classmate in a tragic flight accident and decided to spend the remainder of his Naval career in the logistics/contracting field. His career took him to duty stations including Yokosuka, Japan; San Diego; Columbus, OH; Iceland; Guam; Bahrain; and the DC area, where he met his future wife, Becky. During his career he has traveled to over 22 countries. He completed his Master's Degree in Logistics while working in Columbus, OH.

While assigned to the USS Merrill (DD-976) he received a tour aboard the HMS Britannia, Queen Elizabeth's yacht, while she was visiting President Reagan in San Diego. While assigned to the USS San Jose (AFS-7) he supported carrier Battle Group Foxtrot in combat operations directed against the Iranian Navy known as "Operation Praying Mantis. Following the completion of combat operations from Operation Desert Storm, Phil assisted in the re-deployment of war materials from Bahrain to the United States. Phil retired from the Navy as a Commander in 2004.

Personal decorations include: Defense Meritorious Service Medal, five Navy Meritorious Service Medals and two Navy Commendation Medals.

Phil and Becky moved to Palm Coast in 2004 from Patuxent River, MD. They have been married 30 years and are blessed with many nephews and nieces. They both enjoy boating, water skiing, hiking, traveling, and visiting Disney.