

SOTC – OPERATION BARNABAS

Veteran of the Month Prayer Card

November 2023

Kenneth C. Rankin, III



US AIR FORCE: 1972 - 1998

Ken grew up in Jacksonville, FL. He graduated from Florida State University in Tallahassee, with a Music Degree (BME) and then joined the Air Force. He served as a Bandsman at MacDill AFB and at the USAF Academy in Colorado Springs. He played Clarinet, Guitar, and also performed as a vocalist.

He was transferred to Robins AFB, GA, where he was Musician/Band Superintendent. That is where he met Debbie, his future wife. They were both in the band. While there, he also received his MSA Degree from Georgia College, satellite campus on base. From there he served in the USAF Band at Bolling AFB, Washington, DC, as the Ops Superintendent of Tours. He was transferred to Hanscom AFB, MA, and served as Band Manager. His next stop was Hickam AFB, Honolulu, HI, PACAF, where he served as Band Leader. He retired in 1998 with the rank of E-9 (Chief Master Sergeant).

He departed from Hickam on Terminal Leave to start Greek at the Seminary in Fort Wayne, IN. He received his MDiv in 2002. He served as Pastor in Albion, MI; Hiram, GA; and New Berlin, WI.

Ken and Debra moved to Palm Coast from Waukesha, WI in 2016. He was a substitute Pastor for Pastor Douthwaite and Vacancy Pastor when Pastor Bill retired. He has worked for LCMS for 21 years – so far. Pastor Greg Michel replaced him in Wisconsin and again in Palm Coast.

The Rankin's have been married for 42 years and have four children and six grandchildren. Ken likes music of all kinds, especially Christian Music and hymns and Irish music. He also enjoys traveling and a good game of pickleball.