

Who in the world is this

Barry Richmond



Before Hair

Barry turned up in this world in Madison, Indiana in 1951. As his Dad was in construction and a bricklayer by trade, Barry moved with the family every 3 or 4 years as his father's work required. Ultimately, he ended up in Franklin in 1967 when his Dad took over management of his uncle's Steer Restaurant.

Barry and his brother, Rick began working at their Dad's restaurant for free (Dad did not want to play any favorites) and after a few weeks got a raise to 10 cents an hour. His younger brothers, Rob and Kelly, also grew up in the restaurant business. Barry graduated from Franklin Community High School in 1969, and worked at the Steer as a shift manager during the night and went to Indiana - Purdue University during the day.



After Hair

That is, until he forgot to fill out one of those darn draft deferment cards. That's when he got his first of two letters from the President of the United States ("get in here, and I mean right NOW!"). In 1971, Barry enlisted in the US Army as an airborne combat engineer, thinking he was going to get to float down from the sky and operate heavy equipment just like the Army Recruiting brochure showed.

Alas, recruiting promises (the only heavy equipment combat engineers operated back then were D-handled shovels, barbed wire and knives to detect mines). It didn't matter that much, as he mostly ended up serving as an airborne admin assistant to Army Chaplains in Kentucky and Germany. He rose to the rank of AJ (Acting Jack) Sergeant (which was just almost permanent ... except for an early command transfer). Leaving the military service as a Specialist Fourth Class, he vowed never to put on a military uniform again. Never say never (at least in public).

He went home to managing his Dad's new restaurant in Whiteland, IN with his brother and after a couple of years got an Associates degree in HVAC Technology. He began installing residential heating & air systems, and for a couple of years had a home business selling woodstoves, installing multi-fuel systems and doing plumbing, electrical and submersible well-work. He moved on to installing and troubleshooting computerized energy management systems in industrial/commercial settings in the east half of the US.

After a few years of that he started a company with some associates, designing and manufacturing energy management controls. About the same time, Barry, hit a deer in front of Camp Atterbury one day. The Guardsmen who come out to get the deer, harvested two carcasses that day - a deer and Barry - as they talked Barry into trying the Guard on for size.

The uniforms still fit - and he began a part-time career as an enlisted heavy equipment operator in the Indiana National Guard.

Barry worked for several years at the energy systems manufacturing company in Indy. At the same time he went to Officer Candidate School and was commissioned as an Engineer Officer in the Indiana National Guard in 1982. He was assigned to a heavy equipment unit at Camp Atterbury as Platoon Leader, Training Officer and finally, Commander. After a couple of years the manufacturing company was purchased (in a manner of speaking) and moved to the north side of Indianapolis.

Tired of driving an hour and half each way to get to work, Barry applied for a military technician position with the Indiana National Guard in 1993. Since then has served in a variety of full-time military roles: Director of Training at Atterbury, Director of Strategic Planning and Director of Training for the Headquarters of the Indiana National Guard, Camp Atterbury Commander, and Deputy Commander for Atterbury and Muscatatuck Center for Complex Operations. Barry retired from the military in May 2011 (and got his second letter from the President of the United States - "thanks for everything, but now you gotta get outta here").

Somehow, during all of this career chaos, Barry managed to concurrently go to school and got a Bachelor's in Human Resources and a Master's in Business Management. He started working on a doctoral degree while Commanding Camp Atterbury, but sleep deprivation made him less nurturing than he wanted to be, so he set it aside after a year. He has been through a lot of leadership and organizational management training in the military including group facilitation, team building, Malcolm-Baldrige performance, etc.

A first marriage of eleven years, helping raise four wonderful step-children, while juggling, at times, four jobs just didn't work out. In 1987, Barry met Kathy at an Arthur Murray Dance Studio, and their lives and 23 year marriage became the "dance, I dance with you" as Anne Murray sings. Kathy's older son was in the Army, but her youngest, Tony, was only six, and he became Barry's Yoda-like mentor (an advisory role in which Tony functions still ~ children are remarkable teachers if you try to be a good student). Kathy's many talents and artisan endeavors eventually settled into their home-based business engraving glass and stone awards and gifts.

Barry and Kathy planned to retire to a little town in the mountains of east Tennessee. Though Kathy's path has taken her to the heavenly home along with his Dad, Barry's still working on the dream of finishing that unusual "round" house, nicknamed by friends as "Barry's Birdhouse". Known as a consummate archivist ("really good pack rat"), Barry is busy hauling 60 years of invaluable possessions to Tennessee. It appears it will take a while (although the unnatural idea of "Yard Sale!!" pops up more and more).

Barry has participated in a number of service organizations over the years including Jaycee's, volunteer firefighter, military youth camps, Rotary, Kiwanis, Scottish Rite, Toastmasters, Columbus Scottish Festival, and Leadership Johnson County among others.

Barry recently started a little "consulting" endeavor and enjoys studying leadership and personal development, hiking, construction trades, and other dissimilar interests and avocations. Servant leadership and a Soul of Service has become his self-development focus. Barry's Mom remains a role model of creativity, optimism and service and his Dad left a legacy of honor, quality and as Chief Dan George advised always "endeavor to persevere". A jack of many trades yet master of none, Barry strives to remain "semper gumbly" (Latin for "always flexible"). Aikido helps and the "pain of practice" is a reminder there is still a ways to go. Blessed Be.