

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



The following is Part 4 of the story of the Musch Family of Brighton. Thanks to Bob Musch who submitted this story to the Brighton Area Historical Society as well as the Brighton Alumni Association.

The Musch Family of Brighton, Richard “Rich”

Rich enjoyed his summers growing up on the lake and has many good memories of his school years starting from elementary through high school. Special teachers along the way included Mrs. Langley in Kindergarten, Mr. K, and Pat Lueker, he also fondly remembers principals Mr. Lindbom and Mr. Scranton. It seems like he had an affinity for the disciplinary type. Rich, like many of us appreciated all that Bob Scranton did for the community by getting involved and encouraging kids to be active in a sport at the gym or on the baseball fields, versus driving the loop on Main Street from the A&W to the railroad tracks, (though he did that as well). Also how could anyone forget their time in drivers training, Rich had nervous Mr. Ed Smith! Rich was in one of the last classes in the old high school (on the hill) where it was crowded with three to a locker, he was also one of the luckiest with four to his locker due to friends of friends. His senior trip was also memorable going to both New York City and Washington DC. Back then the legal drinking age in NY was eighteen, needless to say, they kept the chaperones very busy. Rich graduated with a class of 134 students.

Rich went on to Western Michigan University and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Aviation Engineering and his pilot’s license. While in college, the local draft board monitored his status each semester due to the Vietnam War. Rich ended up receiving his college degree and his draft notice the same day. He enlisted in the United States Air Force and went on to Officers Training School (OTS). After OTS, basic pilot training and special training on the C-141 (large transport aircraft) and

survivor school, he was based at Norton AFB, CA. Most of his missions took place in the Pacific flying out of Hickam AFB, HI, the remainder he flew worldwide. Rich had always been a bit afraid of heights, his worst nightmare turned into reality when he had to learn how to parachute. Rich served seven years including his OTS, in 1978, then joined the reserves until 1981. He, like most of his roommates all went on to become pilots for various airlines. Rich hired on with National Airlines and moved to Miami. After several mergers and a bankruptcy (Pan Am) Rich ended up at the LOVE Airline Southwest as a Captain. Rich was thankful to have worked until his retirement at 65. A government action that took effect in 2007 extended pilots mandatory retirement age from 60 to 65.

Rich tries to get out and play tennis most every day when he isn't babysitting or working around the house. Other than tennis he stays in touch with his flight buddies and has taken numerous cruises out of the Fort Lauderdale port. Rich met his wife, Josie of 40+ years while at the airline where she worked as a flight attendant. They have a daughter Paige and two wonderful grandchildren.

(We will be publishing the remainder of the story in the next several issues of Trail Tales.)



Rich and Josie