

This monthly article highlights one of our branch members. We hope that you enjoy knowing a little more about your fellow members and the interesting life they have had. If you have someone you would like to nominate or if you would like to help author an article, please email the editor, Ron Nakamoto, at ron.nakamoto@yahoo.com.

MILTON "MILT" H. WEHRMAN



My mother's and wife's father's ancestors came to Virginia in the mid 1600's from England, Scotland, and Ireland. My wife and I have a long, broad, and distinguished lineage from those origins including many ancestors who participated in the Revolutionary War. I am related to Meriwether Smith, who was a patriot that attended the Continental Congress and contributed to the Constitution of Virginia. His son George William Smith served as acting Governor of Virginia twice. George was then elected only to die December 26, 1811, 3 weeks after taking office, in a fire trying to save his son. I am also related to explorer Meriwether Lewis.

At the Battle of Yorktown Lafayette's furthest-west cannon battery was on the York River on land originally given to my wife's Virginia ancestor, ship captain Robert Pryor in 1648. My father's ancestors came to Missouri in 1848 from Westphalia, Germany, partially to protect his young sons from being conscripted into the Prussian Army fighting the perpetual wars of Germany. Ironically, not many years later they were in the Civil War.

I was born among the first baby-boomers in my mother's hometown of Natchez, MS. I lovingly received the name "Milton" after my grandfather. The name has become so unusual, that I'm sure I'm one of the last "Milton's" on earth. At six months old, I moved to Dallas, TX, where my parents resided and where I spent the next 28 years. Throughout my youth my family would vacation back to Natchez which has a very special history being at the end of the Natchez Trace on a 200 foot bluff above the Mississippi River. Natchez was under the flags of 5 countries and has 62 historical stately "ante-bellum" homes several of which were in my family before the Civil War when "Cotton was King." I can assure you that the Old South is still well entrenched there.

My father was a very good athlete having run hurdles and thrown the discus and javelin for the University of Missouri where he graduated in Civil Engineering. He won the Texas State Amateur Senior Golf Tournament 3rd flight in 1971 just after retiring as Chief of the 5-State Southwestern District of the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers and as a Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Army Reserves. Unfortunately, few of his athletic genes were transferred to me.

I had a wonderful, happy, idyllic childhood in the Highland Park area of Dallas as an only-child in a "Leave It to Beaver"-type household and community. I went to Highland Park HS, one of the best high schools in the USA, from which I graduated in 1964. HPHS is known for a long history of outstanding athletes such as Doak Walker and Bobby Lane (both are in the Hall of Fame) who played pro football in 1950's-60's and most recently Matthew Stafford (quarterback for the Detroit Lions) and Clayton Kershaw (star pitcher for the LA Dodgers. Football is very big in Texas. HPHS has an 8000-seat football stadium to serve a student body of 2,100 students in a community of 32,000 citizens. HPHS has won the Texas State Football Championship five times with the most recent being 2016 and 2017. I was enraptured from the age of eight listening to the announcer of these Friday night games only a few blocks from my house. (Editor's note: This experience is similar to what was portrayed in the TV series "Friday Night Lights".) At 175 lbs. I played offensive and defensive tackle for the Highland Park Scots until I incurred a serious injury to my wrist requiring surgery and a year in casts. On a sad but historical note I was only a few miles away from the area where JFK was assassinated on November 22, 1963. When we heard the announcement over the PA system, we were all in shock and are still distressed.

From 1964-69 I went to Southern Methodist University (SMU) in Dallas where I received a BS in Electrical Engineering and also minored in Business Administration. I chose to major in engineering because I had always done well in science and math and was influenced by the success my father had in his civil engineering career. Beyond my studies I was a member of Kappa Alpha Order fraternity, which was sometimes akin to the movie "Animal House". From 1969-71 I pursued my MBA from Carnegie-Mellon University.

I was an early participant in the emerging semiconductor industry. My first job was at Texas Instruments (TI) as an SMU co-op engineering student. During one assignment, I was the lab technician for L.J. Sevin, (Editor's note: L. J. Sevin authored the bible on metal-oxide semiconductors MOS. MOS technology is estimated to inhabit three of every five electronic products in a trillion-dollar market.) The semiconductor industry during all of my career was a wild and unstable environment. There was instability and significantly large layoffs with every cyclical economic downturn. There was little company-loyalty and much movement of employees between companies. As the industry grew, the product cycles became shorter and the industry became even more price competitive.

As an electrical engineer with an MBA, I worked for some of the most significant semiconductor companies including Texas Instruments, Intel, National, Siemens, and Infineon in a number of different positions from Product Marketing Manager, Major Account Manager, Sales Operations Manager, and Strategic Planning Process Manager. The following are a few highlights of my career:

- In 1971 TI developed a revolutionary 2-IC Bipolar chip set and liquid crystal display exclusively for Timex watches, who was my account. In 1972 I lead the global market research that launched TI into Digital Watches, which used

lower-power MOS IC's and were priced so low that TI drove most competitors out of the market within 4 years.

- In 1976 when I was Digital Watch Operations Mgr. at Litronix, I made a special 24-carat gold watch with a unique wrist-flick-switch, which I was to present with great fanfare to Chicago's Mayor Richard Daly at the Consumer Electronics Show; however, he died just before the Show, so I still have the watch.
- In 1979 when I was Worldwide Distribution Mgr. of EPROMS at Intel, my customers (the Distributors) accounted for 60% of Intel's entire earnings.
- From 1982-87 when I was Worldwide Account Mgr. for Hewlett- Packard at National, I drove annual sales from 10M\$ to 30M\$ in 5 years, which was big money in those days.
- From 1992-96 when I was Strategic Planning Process Mgr. at National, I orchestrated the annual Strategic Planning of all 65 Departments in the company.



Milt and Nancy enjoying life

• I met my wife Nancy at a Stanford Bachelors Club party in Foster City. Even though I didn't go to Stanford, I was granted membership after contributing to the Stanford Athletics Buck Club. Nancy is from Augusta, GA, and had only been in CA for three months working as a sales rep for Lees Carpeting when she miraculously appeared like an angel in the middle of the dance floor. And, she has always been an angel. We were married in 1980 and have 2 daughters age 36 and 31 and 2 grandchildren all of whom live within 10 miles of us.

I retired at the end of 2002 and tried consulting under the name Perceptive Consulting, but that didn't work out. In 2003, I created my party DJ business "Fifties and Sixties Forever," which was motivated by the desire to create something original that I would truly enjoy and that would bring fun to others as well. Since I was eight years old, I have always loved the music of R&B, Blues, Soul, and early Rock 'n' Roll, and I know a great deal about its history." I have 8000 songs from the 1940's-70's. For me, February 3, 1959, the day Buddy Holly died, was truly "the day the music died." Early in my DJ career, I had twelve quick-change costumes to impersonate some well-known early classic Rock 'n' Roll performers including The Big Bopper, Roy Orbison, Buddy Holly, John Lennon, Elvis, Jerry Lee Lewis, Wolfman Jack, and even Little Richard and James Brown, etc. I enjoyed doing Jerry Lee and The Wolfman the most. I also made twenty 2' x 3' custom posters that I can place around the party venue. At my zenith I did twenty-five DJ jobs a year. I still enjoy playing this great and fun music for those who appreciate it.



Milt aka the Wolfman

What else do I do? I play golf and have been a member of SIR for eleven years and am also a member of Cupertino Rotary for fifteen years where I have made several international service trips including Mexico City and Sichuan, where we delivered over 650 wheelchairs. I enjoy learning about history and the transition of man and animals from what I call the "...ologies:"-- anthropology, archaeology, paleontology, and genealogy. My wife Nancy and I do a lot of traveling worldwide, which we love. We are fortunate to have been to so many places it would take a long time to mention, and we don't intend to stop anytime soon.

My parting message to my fellow members is to do as much travelling as possible, as soon as possible. You will enjoy it and cherish the memories.