

STAN ANDERSON

To understand Stan Anderson, you have to know that he is a compulsive multi-tasker. He is a person of strong faith believing that God puts us where He wants us at a point in time and opens doors for us to use our talents, skills and experience to benefit others.

Stan was born and grew up in central Massachusetts. Graduating from high school he went directly into the U.S. Air Force for a 20-year career. Starting in Personnel, he transitioned into Command Post Administration and in his spare time, Stan, like his father before him, became an American Red Cross First Aid Instructor. Following a year at the Tactical Unit Operations Center at DaNang AB, Vietnam, he was assigned to Patrick AFB, FL as the Non-Commissioned-Officer-in-Charge (NCOIC) of an Aircraft Operations Control Center supporting eight Apollo Range Instrumented Aircraft (ARIA) modified by NASA to relay astronaut communications with Houston and record data telemetry from Project Apollo spacecraft as they orbited the earth prior to going to the moon and following reentry blackout. He worked on Apollo missions 4 through 14 and was a recipient of NASA's Apollo Achievement Award.

After Apollo 11, with some spare time on his hands, Stan was invited by fellow First Aid instructors to join then in a local volunteer ambulance company, accruing some 1800 hours in 21 months. Following the Apollo 14 mission Stan cross-trained as a computer programmer and moved to Travis AFB, CA where in his spare time riding ambulances he qualified as the first National Registered Emergency Medical Technician (#10026) in Solano County.

Following a short stay in California, Stan and his family moved to Belgium for a 4-year tour at the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) NATO's multi-service, multi-national headquarters where he was a Computer Programmer/Systems Analyst. In his spare time his First Aid classes with multi-national students led to him being cross-certified by the UK St. Johns Society, the Canadian Red Cross and the Dutch Orange Cross Society and later as one of five ARC First Aid Instructor Trainers in Europe. With his sons moving into Boy Scouts, he became the Assistant, then leader, of the British First SHAPE International Troop with 30 boys from eight countries speaking six different languages. Fortunately, they all spoke either English or French as a primary or secondary language. In addition, Stan became qualified as a FIFA 3rd Class soccer referee. During this time also, his family became one of the five families from around the United States, to found the American Lutheran Church of Brussels, only the second Lutheran church in Belgium.

Returning to New Mexico to finish his Air Force career, as NCOIC of Base Data Automation at Clovis AFB, Stan also continued his adult scouting activities at District level. He retired in 1979 as a Master Sergeant, Computer Systems Superintendent and, finding quick employment in the San Francisco Bay Area, moved the family to San Jose where he worked in various data processing capacities at different companies for the next 21 years. Early on, in his spare time he continued his scouting activities as an Assistant District Commissioner and soon was asked to take on a term as District Commissioner for two years.

In 1981, the pastor of Stan's church asked him to put together a team to lead worship services at a juvenile ranch each month. In 1983, he was asked to also take over the team leading a monthly worship service at the men's jail. These ministries continued until 1995 when Stan and his wife Bette move north to Fort Bragg on the Mendocino Coast.

Following his term as District Commissioner, in 1983 he was appointed to the San Jose Parks and Recreation Commission where he served until 1994. In 1987 he was invited to serve on the Board of Directors of the California Association of Parks and Recreation Commissioners and Board Members (CAPRCBM). While on the board he formalized the Commissioner Training Academy to provide Park and Recreation Commissioner training workshops at various locations throughout the state and served a term as board president, 1992-1993. Over a nine-year period, 1988-1997, Stan was a session chair of ten sessions and a speaker at four other sessions at the annual California Parks and Recreation Society conferences. Working with the National Recreation and Park Society, he was a member of the Council of Affiliate Presidents, 1991-1994, the Pacific Southwest Regional Council (AZ, CA, HI, NV, UT), 1991-1998 and a director-at-large, Citizen/Board Member (CBM) Branch, 1993 – 1998. In these capacities he was a speaker, "The Role of the Commissioner", at the NRPA Annual Congress Education Session in San Jose, 1994 and led Commissioner Training Workshops at state association annual conferences in Anchorage, Alaska, 1994, Honolulu, Hawaii, 1994, 1998 and Las Vegas, Nevada, 1997.

Moving to Fort Bragg, CA in 1995 Stan served 19 years on the Board of Directors of the Mendocino Area Parks Association, supporting education programs, other projects and four visitor centers in six state parks along the Mendocino Coast. In 2012-2018, under an operating agreement with California State Parks, he was one of a four-member team from the MAPA board that reopened and operated the 1,021-acre, 162 campsite, Standish-Hickey State Recreation Area. During the 6+ year agreement, the facility served more than 110,000 campers and visitors. Apart from the MAPA board he was a state parks volunteer docent leading park visitors in Whale, Tide Pool and Harbor Seal Rookery walks, in season.

In 1995, Stan, joined the team at his church leading monthly worship services at the local Sherwood Oaks nursing home. In 2000 he retired from his data processing career and took a job as the Office Manager at the local weekly newspapers the Fort Bragg Advocate-News and The Mendocino Beacon, retiring a third time in 2008. In addition to his MAPA board activities, he also led weekly marine mammal walks in MacKerricher State Park.

In 2001, an opportunity arose for Stan to resume his jail ministry services by leading worship services for state prison inmates at nearby Parlin Fork Conservation Camp. Starting in December 2001, he led worship services on the 2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays of the month until COVID-19 forced him to stop in March 2020. He served 18 years on his church council including 16 consecutive 1-year terms as Treasurer and, in addition to serving on other committees, he was director of the Vacation Bible School, 2014-2019.

Retiring a third time from his Office Manager job in 2008. Stan started speaking at Middle and High School classes and community groups about the history of the Project Apollo program. Not confining his speaking to local schools, as opportunities presented themselves, he has spoken to school classes in CA, CO, PA, UT, MA and Melbourne, Australia. In 2019 he made a presentation at the 70th International Astronautical Congress in Washington, DC on the role that the ARIA aircraft played over 33 years in the history of the US Space Program.

In 2010 Stan became an on-call marine mammal response volunteer for The Marine Mammal Center, assessing and rescuing, as necessary, ill, injured or abandoned Harbor Seal pups, California Sea Lions, young Northern Elephant Seals and Guadalupe and Northern Fur Seals along some 75 miles of northern California coast. Through 2022, he had responded to more than 400 calls, and worked on teams rescuing more than 150 marine mammals.

With all his other activities, Stan has found time to pursue his hobby of genealogy and over the years has documented 17 great-grandfathers who fought in the American Revolution and two great-grandparents, John Proctor (of “The Crucible” fame) and Mary Towne Easty, who were hanged as witches in Salem Village in 1692.

Stan and his wife Bette have been married 62 years and had four children (a son, Chris passed away in 2020), 14 grandchildren and are expecting their first two great-grandchildren in November.

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