

Dave Harrison

I was the first of four boys born at Stockton California into a family whose roots trace back five generations in San Joaquin County. My paternal great-great grandfather rode horseback with his brother to the Gold Rush from Lee County Iowa, arriving in September 1850. My mother's family likewise immigrated to California from the east coast and settled in the little town of Manteca. My family history is closely tied to farming in the Central Valley. I spent my youth visiting my grandmother's ranch, playing with cousins, sailing and water skiing on the San Joaquin River and its tributaries. I attended Amos Alonzo Stagg High School, Stockton Junior College, and University of the Pacific graduating in 1964. I soloed in a Piper Cub when I was 19 and sailed the San Francisco bay as an adult. Throughout college, I worked part time as a local disk jockey and engineer, starting in radio and progressing to television. During Law School at UC Hastings in San Francisco, I worked part time at KQED as a studio engineer on weekends.

To avoid the draft notice I received during my first year of law school, I signed up for the Air Force Officer's Candidate program in 1966. After receiving my commission and working for a year at a base in Mississippi, I was granted excess leave by the Air Force to complete my legal training. I returned to San Francisco and completed my law studies while working during summers at the base legal office at Travis Air Force Base in Fairfield. Following that service, I spent a year in Japan as Staff Judge Advocate at Wakkanai Air Station, at the northern tip of Hokkaido. I had the chance to travel around Japan and found its people, cities and countryside to be wonderful.

Upon discharge and return, I entered private practice with a firm in Stockton California doing insurance defense work, but quickly decided to become a patent attorney. I joined a San Francisco Patent Law firm in 1984 and practiced patent law there for seven years. I then formed my own firm and moved to San Mateo where I served clients principally in Silicon Valley. In 1991 I joined Quantum Corporation, and retired in 2001, as Vice President and Chief Patent Counsel. My most interesting work occurred while representing Quantum, then a leading magnetic disk drive storage company.

Following retirement, my wife and I moved from Belmont to Windsor and have enjoyed living here very much. I spend much of my time enjoying my lifetime interest in Amateur Radio, and have a station in our home. I also grow zinfandel grapes in our backyard and make small batches of red wine each fall. In recent years, we've traveled to Europe and South America where our youngest daughter and family reside.

I have a wonderful wife Joy, three children, six grandchildren and one great grandson. Family and friends are very important parts of our life here. I'm proud to have been a part of Branch 176 since 2012, and have served in several positions including Big Sir in 2017.