

Steve De La Montanya

I am a fifth generation North Bay Resident, a descendant of a pioneer family that arrived in America in the early 1600 and settled in the New York area. Migrating west too San Francisco Bay area in the mid 1800 hundreds. I grew up in Marin County in the San Geronimo Valley in a family with 2 brothers and a sister. My Father passed away while I was in middle school. My mother remarried a couple years later to a wonderful Italian gentleman. I went on to attend what was at the time Sir Francis Drake High School, I became very interested in Motocross and TT racing and spent most of my spare time engaged in riding.

After my junior year a friend mentioned a summer job as a seasonal Firefighter for the County of Marin Fire Dept. Hard to believe but at 16-17 years old you would ride with a Fire Warden out to wildland fires. The driver operated the pump and tried to supervise a bunch of kids on hose lines running around fighting fire. What could be more fun. Lived at the station 4 days a week, grew 2" and gained 20 pounds in one summer. After my second summer I found the Fire Service was my calling and started classes at the Marin JC and looking around for a job. After a few job interviews with some City Depts, Marin County had an opening. I took the test, interviewed placed well, and was offered a full-time position. As the guys at the Fire house predicted, I married my first wife shortly after being hired and when we were expecting our daughter, I made the move to Sonoma County and purchased a Condiotti home in the E section of Rohnert Park. During this time, we opened a small business in town and sold indoor plants and decorative items. A lot of work but not very profitable. When Payless opened in town, we were notified by our suppliers that they would be carrying many of our products, so we closed. We lived there for about 4 years, then moved to a fixer home in Sebastopol where my son was born. I did a lot of remodel work, building a garage, and installed multiple French doors and decks, to open it up to views north to Mt. St. Helena. I continued to seek educational opportunities working towards an AS degree in Fire Science. I went off to Medic school during this time taking the pre-Hospital Care Paramedic program at Stanford University. Ultimately my ex-wife and I went our separate ways with joint child custody and looking for new homes.

Shortly thereafter I met my wife Sherry while flat on my back in a dental chair. She was the attending assistant, and the Dentist was teasing her because he knew she liked me. The instruments were tumbling on my bib and chest. Not too long after we moved to Larkfield together and have been in this area ever since. With 30 years in our current home. I continued to pursue educational opportunities and attended classes across the state in pursuit of the CA State and Federal series of courses. I was able to achieve certifications as Safety Officer and Command Certifications through Operations Section Chief. At work I moved through the ranks at the Department, most notably I worked as a Senior Captain in Point Reyes station, having the entire Paramedic Staff awarded Humanitarian of the year by the County and local Community. After the Vision Fire and recovery, I was promoted to and completed my time at Marin with 10 years as an Operations Battalion Chief. Responsible for the 7 stations, 2 lookouts, A hand crew, and heavy equipment. Administratively I also handled Seasonal employee hiring and equipment and vehicle purchasing. This time included assignments to numerous large Federal and State Fires across the State of CA. with the norm to spend 4 to 6 weeks out on fire assignments during the summer.

After retiring from the Fire Dept. in 2005, I was offered a Manufacturer Representative position with an emergency vehicle manufacturing company in the Los Angeles Area. Over the years the family business was sold and absorbed into a larger corporation with multiple brands and products. I was involved in design and sales of Ambulances, Rescue Trucks, and other Special Application Vehicles and spent several years traveling between Northern, Southern Ca, Nevada, and East to production facilities in Ohio, North Carolina, and Florida. I was separated from the REV group in 2021 and have been spending my time with my brother in his bonded retail Family Wine business, and making Back Shed Red, wine produced in my back yard and entered in amateur competitions with success and a fair assortment of medals. The end products are shared with neighbors that assist in the making. I also spend a lot of time occupied in my rather large yard and enjoy gardening and working on projects. We have a small greenhouse and use it to start vegetable and flower plants in the spring. We share the starts and spend quite a bit of time in the yard and enjoying our time with family and friends.

My Daughter and her husband live in the Bay area. My son, his wife, and our 2 granddaughters live locally in Santa Rosa.

I have really enjoyed my time with the SIRs group and appreciate the comradery and opportunity to get out and play a little Golf and the other activities.