

MY BIO BY FRANK TURNER

I'll start from the day after we graduated. The next morning at 6am I was at Cory Penn Truck Stop to begin my summer's work. When fall rolled around it was off to New Mexico Military Institute. Don Wellborn and I represented the class of 57 at the Institute, John Brady was already there. While it is a great school and I am glad I went there, I might be tempted to say my first two years of college was sort of like a prison experience. After NMMI I decided that big colleges and universities were not for me, so it was off to a small school in a part of the country that I really liked, East Texas State University at Commerce Texas. (now known as Texas A&M at Commerce) I graduated with a degree in Agriculture Science and minors in Biology and Economics. It was a great school and I am still much involved with the school. As most of you guys know Uncle Sam wanted most of us of us in those days. My Dad was on the draft board, so my being drafted after my school deferments ran out was a sure thing. So, I joined the Marine Corps through an OCS program and was commissioned after graduation in 1961. My first assignment was Officers Basic School in Quantico, Virginia. Just 17 miles south of Quantico was the woman's college for the University of Virginia known as Mary Washinton College. Two thousand women just waiting to meet the right Marine. By chance I met Rosalie Alico of Briarcliff Manor New York in March of 1962. We were engaged at Camp Pendleton, California in October of 1962. Three days after our engagement Rosalie headed back to Virginia, I started packing for Cuba thanks to Fidel. After we won that war, it was back to the states for a very short stop and then to the western Pacific with stops in Okinawa, Japan, the Philippines, Taiwan, South Korea, and my first glimpse, but not my last of Viet Nam. Finally back to the states in November of 1963.

Rosalie and I were married November the 16th in Alexandria, Virginia, and this is where my journey really begins. We headed west to Camp Pendleton somewhat akin to the Grapes of Wrath in our 1961 Nash Rambler. In October of 1964 our first son Terry was born. In September of 1967 it was my turn to go to Viet Nam. I was deployed in and around Da Nang. Our second son Kile was born November of 1967, one month and one week after my deployment to Nam. In April of 1968 I took R&R and met Kile for the first time in Hawaii. I returned to the states in Oct. of 1968. I returned a bit disillusioned, not about the Corps, but about fighting a war in a country where we wern't wanted and losing so many fine young Americans. (sound familiar?) Once again we headed across country to our new duty station, Norfolk, Virginia. There was good news and not so good news when we got to Norfolk. The good news was I would probably be promoted to major, the not so good news was that I would be going back to Viet Nam within six months. That is when we decided it was time to do something else. Go back to school and get an MBA or go to work? Work won. So on Sept.1 with mixed emotions and and great respect for all the men and women who serve in our armed forces we bid the Marine Corps farewell. The next day I begin work as a management trainee on the Norfolk and Western Railroad.

For the next thirty seven years we have had quite a railroad journey. We went from Norfolk to Moberly Mo., to Peru Ind. to Roanole Va. where we would be for the next five years. In 1973 after a wonderful vacation in New Mexico our oldest son Terry was stricken with a very rare form of leukemia and was a patient at St. Jude's Children's Hospital in Memphis Tenn. for the next 15 months until his death. We learned the importance of a strong faith, a wonderful church, great family and great friends. Rosalie later wrote about this experience in her book "Going to the Mountain." The cover for the book was done by Bill Curry. We moved on with our life moving to Franklin Va. where our youngest son Joel was born. What a blessing. Then we transferred to Decatur, Ill. for the next five years. During this time the Norfolk and Western Railroad merged with the Southern Railroad which was our ticket to Birmingham, Alabama. During this time our oldest son Kile headed to UNM on an academic scholarship. After UNM Kile returned to Alabama for law school and began his law practice where he and his beautiful wife, Sara, who is also an attorney and our five grandchildren live today. After Birmingham we headed to Macon, Georgia. During this stop we received an offer we couldn't refuse from an entrepreneurial group that would lead us to Jackson, Mississippi. In 1989 I became President and CEO of a midsize regional railroad. I remained in that position until 1993 when we sold the railroad to the Kanas

City Southern Railroad. I made my first attempt at retiring which lasted for two months. At the strong suggestion of Rosalie I accepted a five year offer from CSX Railroad which moved us to Jacksonville, Fla. We greatly enjoyed this beautiful city but began looking west for retirement. Our son Joel headed to Elon College in North Carolina. He has declared North Carolina forever his home. Today he and his beautiful wife live and work in the Chapel Hill area. Joel is a member of the Marine Corps Reserve and has served a combat tour in Iraq. In 1996 we bought a beautiful home in Angel Fire, NM which is our main residence today. Before heading to NM there was one more stop to be made, Washington D.C. I became President of the American Shortline and Regional Railroad Association which represented over 400 small and regional railroads to Congress and other government agencies. Rosalie and I had a great time in this job with great travel and so many interesting people. After four years in DC we were ready to head west to NM. So, in Oct of 2002 I officially retired from the railroad industry.

Today I am a partner in a small shortline in east Texas and currently serve as the President and CEO of the Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railroad headquartered in Chama NM. Rosalie recently published an award winning historical novel "Freedom Bound" and continues to work on other writings. We divide our time between home in Angel Fire and our residence in Birmingham where our five grandchildren reside. Rosalie said in her book "Going to The Mountain" life is a series of being on top of the mountain and walking in the valley. While we have walked in the valley, we have been blessed that most of our life has been on the mountain top.