

Elk Grove Citizen ONLINE



LIFESTYLE

More Super Grads, part 6

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Today, we continue with the highlights of the stories of Elk Grove Super Grads. My list keeps growing and it gets bigger and bigger. I am continually amazed at how varied the accomplishments of our former students are as we view them in 2009. Although I usually list the Super Grads in order by the year they finished high school, I am going to start off today with a very special Super Grad of Elk Grove High School.



Brigadier General Terry Wolff, EGHS, Class of 1975 - I first mentioned Terry in a January article, and he and I have been e-mailing back and forth since then. I had all his military honors and achievements, and a photo of him in the high school yearbook, but I could not find any records of him in elementary or junior high. But, as I know now, his father was military, and the family did not come to Elk Grove until the 1970s. The best part of Terry's story is that he is on the promotion list to become a Major General. As far as I know, that is a first for EG! Terry's parents, E.H. and Ita Wolff, were involved in the Elk Grove Historical Society, and his dad retired as a colonel. Other family members are Terry's sister, Mary Ann Wolff, Class of 1979 (that I do remember from Joseph Kerr), and his cousins Dia Utterback and Rosemary Naves who first called my attention to Terry when I wrote about Brigadier General Don Ralph more than two years ago.

Brigadier General Wolff is in the process of completing his time at the National Security Council and will take command of the 1st Armored Division in Wiesbaden Germany in May. Here is the official listing:

The Chief of Staff, Army announces the assignment of the following officers: Brigadier General (Promotable) Terry A. Wolff, Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Iraq, National Security Council, The White House, Washington, DC to Commanding General, 1st Armored Division, United States Army Europe and Seventh Army.

Terry apologized for taking so long to get back to me, but he had a good reason - he has been in a special training course. And ... he informed me that our Super Grad Don Ralph (Class of 1974) was in the same training. It is truly a small world!

Now, back to more Super Grads:

Dorothy Jordan Hrepich, EGHS, Class of 1944 - I wrote about Paul Hrepich in January, and it should not have taken me so long to get to Dorothy for her list of community activities is as long as his. Dorothy and Paul both graduated from EGHS (Paul in 1943), and I have known them since I had their daughter Cindy in my very first seventh grade class in Elk Grove. Dorothy was Elk Grove's Citizen of the Year in 1987, and this is how she was described at the time: "A caring human being who has volunteered all her life - helping people or being active in organizations such as St. Joseph church, Western Festival, the historical society - groups that contribute to make Elk Grove a good place to live." She has continued in her volunteer services through the years, and she is truly a Super Grad of the Lee and Elder Creek schools as well as EGHS.

Kirsti Cripe Rauser, EGHS, Class of 1970 - Kirsti has been a teacher at Elk Grove Elementary for many years where she is an excellent teacher and a fluent speaker of Spanish. However, it is her many volunteer activities over the years for which Kirsti is best known. A great promoter of the arts, she has served in a variety of roles at the Strauss Festival including that of director for many years. Her father, local veterinarian Wyland Cripe, was one of the original Board members of the newly formed Elk Grove Unified School District in 1959, and Kirsti's sisters are all EG grads as well. My connection with Kirsti goes back a long way to when she was an outstanding member and performer of Joseph Kerr's Shakespeare Club. I truly enjoyed seeing her use her many talents at the Strauss Festival, and if you ever wonder why Tom and I always have front row seats at Strauss, it is because Kirsti reserves the space and puts out the blanket for us!

John Marshall, EGHS, Class of 1972 – This amazing young man from Florin first came to my attention through Mary Tsukamoto, and his path from high school to the world of art has been amazing. He was inducted into the Elk Grove HS Hall of Fame in 1989, and he continues his contributions to the world of art. John is an artist of the Japanese art technique that involves fabrics, dyes, and designs that was developed over the centuries by Japanese craftsmen. How did he come to this from his Florin background? The answer is through Mary, his sixth grade teacher at Samuel Kennedy Elementary, and he refers to her as his mentor and godmother. John was enrolled in a special program for gifted students and graduated from high school at a young age. He then went to Japan to study the ancient art where he worked with the masters. He continues now in his northern California studio as a world renowned practitioner of the ancient crafts. I am proud to say that I have two of the works of this Super Grad that proudly decorate my walls. And, John provided some of the artwork for *We the People, A Story of Internment in America*, Mary Tsukamoto's story.

Raymond Haynes, EGHS, Class of 1972 – Ray, a graduate of USC Law School, has served in both the California Assembly and the State Senate for more than a decade. Elected first in 1992, he represented his constituents until 1998 and then was elected to the Assembly again in 2002. In 1996, he served as the Senate Republican Whip and was responsible for analyzing thousands of bills that reached the Senate Floor. He was also the vice chair of the Assembly Human Services Committee and was a member of the Budget, Health, Natural Resources and Appropriations Committees. His districts have been in the Western Riverside and Northern San Diego County areas, and he has served in a variety of capacities in both the Assembly and State Senate. Ray was my seventh grade student at Joseph Kerr, so I have known him and his family for a long time. His parents are Faye and Raymond Haynes, well known Elk Grove residents for many years, and they too are EGHS grads.

David Herburger, EGHS, Class of 1983 – If the name sounds familiar, it is because it is a very well known and famous name in Elk Grove, and David is part of the reason for that. The publisher of the Elk Grove Citizen is indeed one of our Super Grads, and I am proud to say I served as his vice principal at Elk Grove High (although I do not recall him ever being sent to my office for any reason). As the second generation to manage our local newspaper in the 50 years it has been under the Herburger name, David is clearly on top of the newspaper business, he will likely be running it for the next half century following the path of his dad, Roy Herburger, and his mom, Mary Lewis, who started it all in 1959! Congratulations to Super Grad David, our Citizen Publisher!

To be continued ...

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2. History Happened Here, Book 2-Fields, Farms, Schools – \$20
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