

Charles Kenny "Ken" Fender, Jasper, Alabama 35504:

Spouse: Diane "Di" (née Hanson) Fender. *Children*: one son and one daughter. *Grandchildren*: two boys (19 and 14) and one girl, age two.

I am retired. First twenty-five years after graduation from high school: Flunked out of Auburn in June of 1963. Joined the Lineville, Alabama National Guard unit and went to Tuscaloosa as Governor Wallace did his thing. Married Di, and we'll celebrate 50yrs July 4th 2013. Graduated from Alabama's Officer School in July 1965 and went on active duty Feb 1966.

After a two and a half month Basic Signal Officer Course at Fort Gordon, Georgia, I sailed away for a thirteen-month tour in Nha Trang, South Vietnam, from May 1966—June 1967. I graduated from Fixed Wing Flight School in April 1968 and returned to Vietnam (Saigon) as a VIP pilot, flying all over Indochina (May 1968—June 1969).

I attended the Communication Electronics Career Course at Ft Monmouth, New Jersey (Aug 1969—Jun 1970). On July 9, 1970, I became a Free Mason and received a Scottish Rite progressive degree conferred by the Masons (Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry) in 1971. I became a Shriner in 1972. I served a three-year tour in Heidelberg, West Germany, again flying as a VIP pilot all over Western Europe for eighteen months, and as an Avionics Logistician at 7th Army Headquarters for the remainder of the tour (1970—73).

I was blessed to return to Auburn for two years, graduating with a degree in Business Management and Economics. At my next assignment (June 1975—1978), I became the Assistant Commander, Hunter Army Airfield in Savannah, Georgia, and later the Communication Electronics Officer for the 24th Infantry Division Artillery (Fort Stewart, Georgia).

From August 1978—1979, I attended the Army's Command and General Staff College (a Master's level course) at Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas (outside the prison). We relocated to Fort Rucker, Alabama, to attend the Rotary Wing Transition Course, and later assigned to the Communication Electorate Branch, Combat Developments Directorate, as a Branch Chief/Action Officer (1979—1982). The army relocated us to Ft. Bragg, North Carolina, where I became the 35th Signal Brigade's S4 Logistics Officer. I retired July 1, 1985, with a twenty year active career and twenty-four overall years served. We moved to Jasper, Alabama, and I became the Senior Army Instructor in Walker High School's JROTC Department. *I totally retired Jan 2009(!!)* and took care of my beloved mother, until she passed away in August 2009. I became a York rite Mason in 2011.

Is there something you always wanted to know about a classmate? And if so, who and what? *All of them*—to share what we have done as citizens in our lives over the past half century.

My plans for the next 25 years or more, hopefully, are to enjoy retirement, travel, volunteer to help others and my family, especially my grandchildren while trying to improve myself as a Christian, Mason, and citizen in this great country.