

### Military Service of Robert Forster '53

- June 1953 Entered CB Novitiate in Napa
- 1954 Entered CB Scholastic at St. Mary's College
- 1956 Drafted into the Army, basic training at Ft. Ord, followed by basic Army Administration school, Personnel Management.
- Aug. 1959 Original assignment to weather station in Hawaii, changed to Okinawa, Japan. Arrived just in time for my first typhoon. Assigned to Headquarters, Commanding General of Far East, as a general's aide. General was helping rebuild Okinawa's infrastructure. One of my duties was to deliver top secret messages from U.S. to General Booth or to Generals and Admirals of Marines, Air Force and Navy, for which I was provided a car and Japanese driver and a helicopter piloted by a Major. It was kind of embarrassing to be saluted by sentries as I was only a PFC. (The sentry salutes if the license plate shows the vehicle belongs to a general or full colonel.) Tour of duty was very enjoyable, especially learning Japanese customs and culture.
- Met my wife at an enlisted men's club, married in 1960 at city hall, U.S. embassy and Catholic Church by a future Cardinal. When general decided to retire, he asked all his aides where they would like to be reassigned. Since I only had a few months left, I was given an early discharge. At this time build up for Vietnam war had started with troops and equipment arriving daily on the island.

1961 I was discharged and assigned to reserves. Got a degree in Business Administration from Sacramento State.  
Retired from Sacramento Bee in 1998 after 42 yrs.

