



Noel J. Keller

Noel J. Keller, Col. USMC, Ret., born and raised in Kansas was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in 1958 and departed Kansas with his new wife, Marjorie. After training in Quantico and Pensacola he was transferred and received his Regular Commission in 1961 while stationed at Marine Air Facility Santa Ana (later MCAS Tustin), serving with HMR(C)-363 and HMR-163. Noel and Marjorie settled in Tustin with their newborn daughter, purchasing a home and adding another daughter and twin sons to their family.

Although military transfers moved the family around the U.S. to Virginia, Mississippi, Rhode Island and Japan, Noel's primary duty as a helicopter pilot brought the family back to Tustin regularly and all 4 children spent some school years at Utt Junior High and graduated from Tustin High School.

Noel served multiple tours of duty with Marine helicopter squadrons in Vietnam flying combat & medivac missions, later at MCAS Tustin he was Commanding Officer of helicopter squadrons HMT-301 & HMM-161 as well as S-4 & Executive Officer of the Air Station.

Other duty assignments included terms at the Naval War College in Rhode Island, jet flight instructor at NAS Meridien, Mississippi, Special Services Officer at MCAS Iwakuni, Japan and Commanding Officer of MAG-36 in Okinawa. He finished his career at MCAS El Toro, serving as Chief of Staff, G-4 and Model Installation Manager, winning the Model Installation Award for the Air Station twice before retiring in Tustin in 1987.

