



MAJOR (R) MARLAN M. (MARTY) PINKSTON

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY CLASS OF 1979

Marty was born in Lebanon, Kentucky and spent his early years in Glasgow, Kentucky. His family moved to Frankfort, Kentucky when he was nine, and he graduated from Franklin County High School in 1975. Marty enrolled in the UK Army ROTC program in the fall of 1975 and was subsequently awarded a three year Army ROTC scholarship. During his time at UK, Marty was heavily involved in Pershing Rifles (PR) and served as the PR Company Commander his senior year. Marty earned his bachelor's degree and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant, Armor branch, 12 May 1979. He married his high school sweetheart, Fran McHargue, 19 May 1979.

Marty entered active duty on 7 June 1979 at the US Army Armor School, Fort Knox, Kentucky to complete the Armor Officer Basic Course and the Motor Officer Course. Upon completion of this initial training, Marty was assigned to 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood, Texas. While on active duty he held various leadership positions including: Armor Platoon Leader, Armor Company Executive Officer, and Armor Battalion Personnel Officer (Adjutant/S-1).

Upon completion of his four year active duty commitment in 1983, Marty came back to the Bluegrass State, joined the Kentucky Army National Guard, and soon secured a full-time position with the Guard. His first billet was Force Integration Officer where he coordinated arrival of new equipment coming to the Guard (i.e., Blackhawk helicopters) and then arranged training on the new inventory for the full-time workforce. In 1986 Marty moved to the Human Resources Office, which served the full-time employees of the Kentucky Army National Guard, and held various positions of increasing responsibility for the next 13 years. In his parallel role as a traditional Guardsman, he remained in Armor branch and held various leadership positions in the Armor community including: Armor Company Commander, Armor Battalion Intelligence Officer (S-2), Armor Battalion Operations and Training Officer (S-3), and Armor Battalion Executive Officer. Marty's military career culminated as Battalion Commander of 2nd Battalion, 123rd Armor, an M1 Abrams equipped tank battalion. Marty retired from the Kentucky Army National Guard on 31 August 1999 after slightly more than 20 years of service.

In August 1999, Marty accepted a post in the Human Resources Office of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System, but soon realized he deeply missed military camaraderie. On 1 June 2001 Marty was employed as Executive's Staff Advisor with the newly formed Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs (KDVA). In this role he built KDVA's first website from scratch, served as the legislative liaison for the Department, and answered constituent inquiries for the Governor and General Assembly concerning veteran issues. He was assigned duty as Chief of Staff for KDVA in 2004, and Governor Ernie Fletcher appointed Marty the Deputy Commissioner of KDVA on 1 December 2005. When Governor Steve Beshear was inaugurated he retained Marty in this critical role until he retired on 1 December 2008. During his tenure at KDVA, Marty assisted in the Department's growth and expansion of services to Kentucky veterans, including opening two new state veteran nursing homes, construction and opening of Kentucky's first three-state veteran cemetery, improved benefit delivery, and development of new programs to serve women veterans and homeless veterans.

Marty has been involved in many volunteer roles throughout his adult life including: Elder and Sunday School teacher at Capital City Christian Church, Boone National Guard Center Federal Credit Union Board, Kentucky Veterans Program Trust Fund Board, Bluegrass Chapter of Military Officers Association of America, and the Kentucky Historical Society Executive Committee. Governor Ernie Fletcher appointed him to the Kentucky Military History Museum Board, and he was re-appointed to the post by Governor Steve Beshear.

Marty and Fran have one daughter, Emily Grace, who is a 2013 graduate of UK. Marty delights in singing, is an avid deer hunter, enjoys fishing, and he and Fran love sailing. They reside in Frankfort, Kentucky.