

Biography

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It's only through God's grace and mercy through His Son Jesus Christ that I am saved. As I have matured in my faith walk, this truth has become even clearer to me. My journey has taken me through moments of challenge and growth, each strengthening my reliance on God and deepening my commitment to living according to His purpose. These experiences have shaped not only my beliefs but also my daily actions, motivating me to approach life with gratitude and humility, and to extend compassion to others as I strive to honor the blessings I have received.

My home is Charleston, South Carolina. It's where I grew up from the second grade through high school and college. While I say Charleston, my roots are on one of its barrier islands—James Island. James Island is just a short drive from downtown Charleston, offering a quieter, coastal lifestyle while still being part of the greater Charleston community. It's the place where I first learned to ride a bike along sandy and dirt roads and spent summer evenings watching the sun set over the marshes. I played with friends of many backgrounds and races. These sensory memories connect me deeply to my home and help define who I am.

Attending Presbyterian College in Clinton, South Carolina on a football scholarship marked a pivotal chapter in my life. The campus, nestled among towering oaks and historic brick buildings, became my second home. Early mornings were spent on the football field, pushing myself alongside teammates through drills that built not just physical strength, but lifelong friendships. Between classes and practices, I found myself immersed in a vibrant campus community—late-night study sessions in the library, spirited debates in the student union, and weekends playing for the Blue Hose.

It was during one of those ordinary days that an extraordinary moment unfolded. I remember eating lunch at Greenville Dining Hall, the familiar hum of voices and clatter of trays filling the air. My roommate nudged me, pointing toward the entrance where Jen—Jeanne Marie Folsom—walked in with quiet grace. Her presence caught me completely off guard; she seemed to radiate warmth and kindness. I felt my heart skip a beat. Our first interaction was unforgettable; something in the way Jen listened made me feel seen and understood, and it was then that I sensed she would play a significant role in my life.

Nearly 47 years of marriage have passed since then—years filled with moments both joyful and challenging. Jen has truly been my rock, guiding our family (Lindsey, Marianne, and Will) through life's twists and turns. Her unwavering support shone brightest during the tough

times. When I was away from home, she managed the household single-handedly, offering our children reassurance and stability. Jen became the steadfast advocate, researching treatments for health concerns and comforting us all with her quiet strength. Through big milestones, like children's birthdays, graduations and moving to new cities, Jen encouraged us to embrace change, reminding us to cherish each other and hold tight to our faith. Her compassion, wisdom, and ability to find light even in darkness have shaped our family's story. With Jen by my side, I've learned what true partnership means, and for that, I am endlessly grateful.

Over my 26-year Army career (Signal Corps), I moved from South Carolina to Georgia, then Texas, Kansas, the United Kingdom, Washington, DC, Germany, and finally returned to Washington, DC. Each location brought its own set of challenges and opportunities, shaping my perspective and skills. These experiences allowed me to adapt to new environments, learn from diverse cultures, and grow both personally and professionally.

In August 1991, we relocated to the Northern Virginia area after completing an assignment at RAF Mildenhall in the United Kingdom. Upon my assignment to the White House Communication Agency, I had the good fortune to meet Bob Edwards. As our friendship developed, Bob invited me to attend Prince of Peace Lutheran Church (PoP). At that time, I was searching for a welcoming church where we could connect after the move, and Bob's invitation felt like the perfect opportunity to become part of a local fellowship. We joined PoP in 1992, marking the beginning of our new chapter in Northern Virginia.

After retiring from the military in 2004, I transitioned to a government civilian (GS15) role within the Army Staff, serving within the Chief Information Officer and G6 office. Over the next 19 years, I advanced through a series of staff and leadership positions, culminating in my appointment as Chief of Staff for the Joint Service Provider. In this capacity, I oversaw key organizational initiatives and led cross-functional teams, driving improvements in operational efficiency and service delivery. My tenure included implementing technology strategies, managing complex projects, and fostering collaboration across departments to achieve mission-critical objectives in support of the Pentagon and Department of War.

Over the course of 34 years at PoP, my journey of service has unfolded through a series of meaningful roles, each building upon the last. I began to help with ushering and reading scripture from the pulpit. A few years later, I joined the initial Care Ministry group, then started serving Holy Communion, and was eventually invited to serve on the Board of Servant Leaders, including a term as President. Throughout these years, I also dispensed ashes during Ash Wednesday services. I started out as a substitute teacher for an adult Bible Class and became the sole teacher around 2023. I provide an uplifting midweek Biblical "thought" and prayer to approximately 125 individuals via an email distribution list. Each transition brought new challenges and joys, deepening my faith and sense of service at PoP. I am truly grateful for the relationships and spiritual growth fostered by these experiences.

As I reflect on my life's journey—through faith, family, service, and countless transitions—I am humbled by the blessings that have guided me. The relationships I've built, the lessons learned, and the opportunities to serve have all been gifts that I cherish deeply. Moving forward, I strive to continue to serve God. I live with gratitude, purpose, and compassion, trusting that God's grace will lead me wherever He calls.