

## Dr. CHARLES W. BERNARD

Charles' dad was born in KY but left in his late teens seeking his fortune elsewhere. His mother was born in La Junta, CO. They met in Taos, NM where Charles' mother who was visiting relatives. They married and had a brood of nine children – one girl and eight boys! Charles is the middle child.

To support his family during the depression era, the father became a heavy equipment mechanic and moved wherever work could be found. One job was in the oil fields of the TX Permian Basin where Charles and one brother were born. The brothers were born in Wink, TX although Charles says he lost his TX accent because his parents moved when he was two-months old.

Another job for dad was in NV with the building of the Hoover Dam. Other jobs and moves came and went, with the family finally settling in the Mojave Desert at Ridgecrest, CA where the Naval Ordnance Test Station was being built for research and develop of weapons for WWII. The Mojave Desert had perfect atmospheric conditions and thousands of acres for testing weapons.

The Naval Station is where Charles developed his interest in military ordnance. He became a mechanical engineer and started his career as a naval rocket designer. He moved through the ranks quickly and was courted by Lockheed Missiles and Space Company to work in Northern California. He worked for Lockheed for six years.

Next, he was offered a position – again with the Department of the Navy – at the Naval Weapons Center in Dahlgren, VA. He headed the Guided Missiles Department. Later he was Technical Director of the Naval Ordnance Laboratory in Silver Springs, MD.

Charles then accepted an assignment to NATO, Brussels, Belgium as Science Advisor to the US Military Delegation. It was a year of visiting each of the NATO countries and working to understand how their military needs meshed with United States research and development of weapons systems.

While in Brussels, Charles was recruited to work in the Office of the Secretary of Defense in the Pentagon, so he and the family returned to Washington, DC. For a dozen years, he was the Director of Land Warfare under Secretaries of Defense Rumsfeld, Brown, Weinberger and Carlucci.

During this time, Charles also earned a Doctorate in Public Administration from the University of Southern California, Washington, DC campus.

Upon retiring, he formed the Columbia Bay Defense Consulting Company which he headed for another dozen years.

Finally in 2000, he retired to West Columbia, TX. He had attended at conference at the Columbia Lakes Resort and Conference Center in the late 1980s and saw the small,

Texas friendly town with open skies as the ideal place to enjoy retirement with his wife Judy. Charles has four children. Margaret, the oldest, is retired from federal service and lives in Arlington, VA. Daughter Hannah is a marine biologist on Maui, HI. Son Dan, a retired Army Special Forces officer, works at the Special Operations Command in Tampa, FL. The youngest daughter, Ali, lives in Kensington, MD and works for Maryland Legal Aid.