

Faith In Action

A new series profiling members and friends of SMCC

Frank Knolle

Service has always been a priority for Texas born Frank Knolle, whether it be to his church or to his country. A graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point, Class of 1945, Frank received his wings and entered the US Army Air Corps. During the Berlin Air Lift, he flew 91 missions out of Frankfurt before returning to the United States with his wife Shirley and their young daughter.



Retiring as a Colonel after 27 years in the USAF his career included test pilot duty at Edwards AFB, several years with the Strategic Air Command, and a top-secret Special Project assignment in Southern California. After retirement, Frank entered into a full career in the aerospace industry with Aerojet in Azusa.

Following the death of his wife, Frank moved to San Marino to be closer to his two daughters, and in 1997 he joined San Marino Community Church. Frank's first great-grandchild, Abigail, will be baptized here this fall.

Frank has been a loyal member of the usher team since joining the church, and every Wednesday at 7:00 am, he's in his place for the Men's Breakfast for good conversation, interesting guest speakers, and Christian fellowship; he even led an English-Chinese conversation group... Frank did not learn Chinese! He has served on Session and enjoyed being on the Facilities Committee. A strong supporter of the current capital campaign, he found his discussions with Jeff O'Grady, as always, inspirational and motivating. He still hopes to see the original architectural plan completed with the portico (covered walkway) along the south side of the sanctuary.

Six years ago Frank remarried. Billie Youngblood, to no one's surprise, is the daughter of a West Pointer. Both Visitation Pastor Tom Bousman and her Episcopal priest conducted the ceremony. Billie's grandchildren served as acolytes. For the recessional, she surprised Frank with the Air Force theme, *Off We Go Into The Wild Blue Yonder*.

The Knolles are still flying high giving credit to their beloved clergy and the support of valued church friends. "Thanks be to God!"