

Michael Clarke Denton

Michael Denton was raised in Tidewater, Virginia, the sixth of seven children of Rear Admiral and US Senator Jeremiah & Jane (Maury) Denton. During that formative time, Jerry was shot down in Vietnam and held as a senior POW for seven years and seven months. His father is generally known for outstanding resistance, intellect, endurance, leadership and faith - eventually earning the navy's highest award, the Navy Cross, among many other honors. At that time, Jane Denton was raising seven young children, supported by family, friends and faith. She is known for her loving demeanor, gentle strength and deep faith – she was a Steel Magnolia. After Vietnam, they continued serving America in the Navy and the United States Senate (AL-R). Retiring from 40 years government service, they formed the Admiral Jeremiah Denton Foundation supporting the world's poor before their passing and burial together at Arlington National Cemetery.

Raised into this life of service, Mike Denton is a proud alumnus of the Virginia Military Institute with a degree in Economics where he was commissioned into the navy reserves, eventual serving on active duty as a Surface Warfare Officer in Deck, Engineering & Weapons Departments, and as Ship's Legal Officer. This included a humanitarian mission to Beirut, Lebanon, during an intense regional conflict, to establish and support safe zones where soon after a terrorist attack killed over 240 US Marines. His subsequent reserve duty included several years as Command Center Watch Officer for the US Atlantic Fleet, eventually achieving the rank of Lieutenant Commander.

Concurrent with that reserve duty, Mike began his civilian career with seven years of naval contracting experience as a Foreman, Superintendent, General Manager, Project Manager and Business Analyst. Closer to his college degree, he transitioned to professional investment management for three decades and just recently retired as a Senior Vice President at Davenport & Company in downtown Richmond, succeeded ably by his son-in-law, Ryan Shumate.

Remaining active in retirement, Mike is now a board member of Operation Healing Forces serving the critical needs of active and veteran US Special Forces families, much like support he received in childhood. His faith dedication is to the Sovereign Military Order of Malta - a Roman Catholic lay religious order dedicated to the world's sick and poor for over 900 years – as a Magistral Knight and founding Hospitaller of the Richmond Region. His previous community service included: Legislative Chair of Virginia 56th House District, board member of Admiral Jeremiah Denton Foundation, President VMI Club of Richmond, President Focus Club of Richmond, volunteer officer of DOD's Employment Support of the Guard & Reserve, and board member at St Francis Home Manchester where he led construction of a beautiful chapel for residents of modest means.

Mike's personal interests include family, golf & boating. As a confessed "history nut", he is an active member of the Society of the Cincinnati, Society of Colonial Wars, Virginia Sons of the Revolution and other historic organizations. Celebrating over forty years of marriage, Mike & Katherine (Addison) live in Manakin Sabot and often enjoy their cottage on the Rappahannock with their children's families including five grandchildren. Along with these other involvements, Mike enjoys speaking to groups about his parent's national service "under difficult circumstances" to provide important perspective and hopefully inspire others through any serious life adversity.