

Col. James T. (Jim) O'Kelley was born in Asheville, NC. March 24, 1941.

He received his BS in Civil Engineering from Duke University in 1964, his MS in Systems Management, and his Doctorate in Public Policy Analysis from The George Washington University in 1971 and 1976, respectively.

Col. O'Kelley retired from the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve after 36 years of accumulated service including tours of duty in Vietnam in 1966, 1967, and 1968. His last duty was as Director of the Marine Corps Logistics Readiness Center at Headquarters Marine Corps in Washington, D.C.

Dr. O'Kelley served as an Adjunct Professor of Business and Public Administration at George Mason University from 1976 to 1996. He retired from the US Geological Survey in 2006 with 40 years of US Government service. Jim recently retired after 11+ years as a part time Albemarle County Deputy Sheriff and the Chairperson of the Charlottesville/Albemarle TRIAD. He also just retired after three years each as the President of the Thomas Jefferson Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, and the Commandant of the Bradley T. Arms Marine Corps League Detachment.

Col. O'Kelley's education spanned his entire military career beginning with USMC Amphibious Warfare School at Quantico VA, to the Naval War College in Newport R.I. in 1991-92 and then to numerous Armed Forces Command and Staff Colleges across the U.S, Canada, and England. He then went on to serve as a member of the faculty of many of the aforementioned colleges between numerous executive and command assignments including Adjunct Professor of Leadership, Marine Corps University where he developed and taught "Moral and Ethical Aspects of Military Leadership."

In Vietnam, he served as a 2nd Lieutenant Platoon Commander, then an advisor to the Republic of Korea Marine Corps, then to a 1st Lieutenant Executive Officer, and then a Captain, Company Commander, with the USMC 9th Engineer Battalion. He has co-authored a book "The 9th Engineer Battalion, First Marine Division in Vietnam".

Col. O'Kelley's numerous personal decorations include the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star with "V" device, the Purple Heart Medal, the Air Medal, the Combat Action Ribbon and over a dozen other awards.

He is married to Jan Smart, whom he met while stationed at Quantico Marine Corps Base when he had the privilege to escort her when she was representing Kentucky at the National Cherry Blossom Festival in Washington, DC. They have two daughters, Tara and Colleen of Albemarle County, Virginia and one son James III, of Sykesville, MD. They have also been blessed with six grandchildren. Jim and Jan live in Keswick, VA.