

February Volunteer Spotlight: Mike Gahagan

Mike joined the museum staff in late 2017 shortly after the arrival of our P-3C Orion. He was a museum visitor for many years before he retired. He joined the Wednesday crew and was one of "The Three Amigos" with Keith Handel and Gary Wolf. After the COVID shutdown, he joined the Thursday crew before becoming involved in the Museum finances. As a retired accountant he saw a need to improve what we were doing. He is now involved with bringing accounting functions in-house that were previously done by outsiders.

Mike was born and raised in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He attended the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee where he graduated with a degree in accounting. He joined a large electrical equipment manufacturer where he worked in various positions before he was transferred to the Carolinas to become the Plant Controller at a transformer plant in Monroe.

While in college he enlisted in the Naval Reserve in Milwaukee. Shortly after, he was invited to join the Naval Security Group which was involved in the field of signals intelligence. He served on active duty in Pensacola, FL and later was assigned to Naval Communications Station in Wahiawa, HI. After active duty he returned to the reserve center in Milwaukee. After serving 14 years, he was commissioned a Special Duty Officer (Cryptology). After his move to the Carolinas, he served in the southeast in Charleston, Knoxville and Greensboro. He became Commanding Officer of the Naval Security Group unit in Knoxville and later served in Greensboro where he retired in 2004 as a LCDR after 34 years of combined service in the Naval Reserve.

In his civilian career, he worked his last 19 years as the Chief Financial Officer for a small manufacturing company in Statesville where he retired in 2015.

Mike lives in Hickory.