

Kevin Hilliard

My Post-Grad Journey:

After leaving Fairfield in June I went to San Antonio in August for Officer Training School at Lackland AFB. After three months at Lackland I was assigned to Vance AFB in Enid, Oklahoma for pilot training and I graduated a year later. I was then trained to be an instructor and spent most of the next four years back at Vance teaching newly minted officers how to fly. In June 1974 I left the Air Force and moved to Boston and attended Suffolk University Law School at night. I became a member of the NJ Bar in June 1979. I then joined Associated Aviation Underwriters subsequently known as Global Aerospace as a Claims Attorney and became the department head in 1994. From the time I began my insurance career until I retired in 2012 we were directly or indirectly involved in the litigation and resolution of most major airline accidents both domestic and international including the World Trade Center attack. My wife Cathy and I have been married for thirty-eight years and we had three children together and two more from my prior marriage. All five are married and we have six grandchildren and are expecting three more during 2019. We do a lot of day care and have great fun doing it. We have been fortunate to have traveled around the world on business and otherwise and are looking forward to additional trips.

What is your favorite Fairfield University memory?

At Fairfield I enjoyed living at the beach senior year, going to basketball games and being with the great people who were my classmates. My favorite courses were Robert Emerich's Drama and Shakespeare, Dr. Joan Walters' banking courses and Dr. Edward Dew's South and Central America political science. Although at the time I didn't appreciate why we had to take so many required credits in Theology and Philosophy I eventually came to see the benefits of disciplined thinking. I am thankful for the values I learned from my parents and reinforced and refined by the Jesuits; during my career those values helped me to maintain an attitude of empathy and resolution rather than mindless confrontation and endless battle.