

Meet Bill Turner, a part time Solera resident since 2014 and a full time neighbor for the last five years. Born in Chico, CA in 1937, Bill became a US Marine for eight and a half years until 1964 after originally signing up for the Army. (This involves a story within a story about which Bill can give you the details.) Serving as a petroleum expert, he helped deliver fuel to battlefield locations and remembers refueling Air Force One and sharing how many times the fuel went through testing. Visiting hot spots like Viet Nam and Lebanon in a KC-130 became somewhat routine.

Bill's Marine career included a stint on Christmas Island where he worked with the British RAF to get a 20 mile fuel pipeline functional. Bill remains justifiably proud of this accomplishment and the resulting commendations were "just gravy" as he puts it.

In 1964, Bill rejoined civilian life and tried a few jobs before settling on one for the City of Los Angeles. Starting as a laborer, he progressed to the position of maintenance superintendent, responsible for the performance and safety of 164 individuals. Thirty-one years later Bill finally embraced retirement but never relaxed his efforts to serve others. Bill continues to be a man of faith and has served as chaplain for the US Marine Corp Association.

Bill's scariest moment? Being two miles below the streets of Los Angeles working on pumping equipment, tethered to a line connected to the surface at the mercy of many factors. "Did it ever affect your job performance?" he was asked. "No" was the response since the fear only set in after the fact.

Many may recognize Bill's byline since he has developed a reputation as a prolific writer of articles, many of an inspirational nature. His work has been published in a number of journals, including our own *Solera Connections* newsletter.



Bill and his wife, Norma, are pictured here at their Majestic Wind home. Their welcome sign is more than an ornament.

Accomplishments and acknowledgments are too many to note here but Bill's proud of his ability to run (and finish) ten marathons. And a singer? Lead Singer for the Valleyaires Barbershop Chorus! Yes, it's true.

Pet peeves? – Bill's nature forces him to turn this question on himself. "I can't be late." The interviewer asks if this means that he's annoyed with folks that tend to be tardy. A smile is the only answer given.

A positive person with his outlook as obvious as his Doc Holliday mustache, Bill has become a welcome fixture here in Solera.