

Bob Garrett



Following graduation from Prep in 1966, I attended Washington U. Engineering School on a scholarship while working part-time at the Post office for 4 yrs.

On 8/23/1969, while still in school at WU, I married Toni Notorangelo, whom I had met at a New Year's Eve party during our senior year at Prep, at the Old Cathedral. The wedding was celebrated by Fr. Weber—apparently his 1st wedding as a celebrant—when the priest who was intended to be the celebrant beat us to the punch and married before we did!

In May, 1970, I graduated from WU with a BSEE and was commissioned as a 2Lt. with the Air Force before spending the summer working for IBM in Poughkeepsie, NY. I returned to WU on an educational delay in the fall of 1970 to complete my MSEE, and then entered active duty during the summer of 1971 with Air Force Systems Command at Vandenberg AFB, CA, engaged in classified satellite checkout and launch activities. My work with spy satellites was de-classified just a few yrs. ago, so I can finally talk a bit about what I did. My oldest son was born 1/31/1973 while I was on active duty in CA.

On 4/1/1973, as a 1Lt., I took advantage of an "early out" from active duty in order to thereafter attend law school at SLU. While in law school, I was a law review editor and started working for a patent lawyer in St. Louis, with whom I thereafter practiced for over 30 yrs.

I graduated from law school at SLU with my JD degree in June 1976 and was admitted to the MO bar in the fall of 1976, shortly before the birth of a second son on 10/7/1976. After later passing the patent bar and being admitted to practice before the US Patent and Trademark Office, I then became the parent of a daughter on 8/11/1978, before co-founding the St. Louis patent law firm of Haverstock, Garrett & Roberts (later an LLP) on 1/1/79. I thereafter practiced patent law with that firm until 4/1/2009, when I finally left that firm and began practicing patent law as a sole practitioner.

My time with Haverstock, Garrett & Roberts included a number of memorable activities, including the filing & presentation of the 1st trademark infringement action (on behalf of Silver Dollar City) in Taney Co., MO; engagement in a trademark proceeding with Elvis' estate & trust (involving Priscilla Presley & others); representation of Boatmen's Bank for many, many years (until its eventual merger into Nationsbank/Bank of America); and experiences in acting as lead counsel for over 20 yrs. in a long-running, complex patent infringement action that took 40 days of trial in NJ, before subsequent appeal actions.

Along the way I was elected to and served 18 years as a city council member in Florissant, MO, from 1984-2002, with stints as Council President and VP thrown in, and served on various Florissant and St. Louis County Municipal League commissions and committees. I also later became qualified as a mediator under MO S.Ct. rules.

After suffering a heart attack that resulted in the insertion of 2 stents during the summer of 2011, I then also suffered, just after Thanksgiving 2012, a hemorrhagic stroke that initially paralyzed my left side and which I was told was a side effect of a blood thinner that I had been prescribed and was then taking for my heart attack. Today, I am continuing to improve and to increasingly gain better use of my left side, but I remain impaired in the use of that side. I have not engaged in an active practice of law since my stroke and have been essentially retired since the occurrence of that stroke, instead devoting some significant time & efforts on genealogical pursuits.

Our 3 kids--2 sons and 1 daughter-- now all live on the east coast with their own kids—5 grandchildren, in all. Toni and I spend increasingly greater time in journeying to visit all of them and in spending time at a timeshare in Florida.

Toni, who retired in 2014 after teaching Math at the Meramec campus of the JCD for many years, and I reside, since late 1977, in what had been my maternal grandparents' house in the middle of Old Town Florissant, on the same block where I grew up as a kid.

I still meet up with our old classmates (who were also my grade school classmates) Tom Henke (now a retired teacher/principal) & Dan Neunuebel (1-time writer, 1-time helicopter pilot), who live only blocks away from me, almost every week.