

## **Colonel David O. Schillerstrom**

Colonel David O. Schillerstrom was the Deputy Director of Public Affairs for the United States Air Force from 1980 to 1984, retiring after thirty years of active duty.

Colonel Schillerstrom was born April 28, 1929, in Gibson City, Illinois. He graduated in 1947 from Hinsdale High School, Hinsdale, Illinois, and from the University of Illinois in 1954 with a bachelor of arts degree, majoring in English literature. He earned his masters degree in public administration from the George Washington University in 1966. He is a graduate of the Army Information School, Boston University Short Course, and the Air Command and Staff College.

Colonel Schillerstrom was commissioned through the Air Force Reserve Officers Training Corps in February 1954. From August 1954 to April 1957 he served as base information officer, Turner Air Force Base, Georgia. Following an assignment as information staff officer, 16th Air Force, Madrid, Spain, he became base information officer, Torrejon Air Base, Spain, when the base opened in September 1957. In August 1960 he was assigned as wing information officer for the 4043rd Strategic Wing, later the 17th Bombardment Wing, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. He was assigned to SAC headquarters the first time in April 1962 as an information staff officer. In July 1963, he became Chief, Plans and Policy Branch, in the Directorate of Information.

From July 1965 until July 1966 Colonel Schillerstrom attended the Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama. Upon graduation, he headed to the Pentagon, where he was the special projects officer in the Directorate for Plans and Programs, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense, Public Affairs, until 1969. In October 1969 he was assigned to the Republic of Vietnam where he was first Chief, Media Liaison Division, and then Chief, Plans Division and Executive Officer, Office of Information, Headquarters 7th Air Force.

Upon returning to the United States in November 1970, Colonel Schillerstrom served as executive officer to the Air Force Director of Information in the Pentagon. In November 1972 he became Chief, Support Forces Branch of the Public Information Division. In July 1977 Colonel Schillerstrom returned to SAC Headquarters to become the Director of Information. He served there until August 1980 when he returned to the Pentagon to become the Deputy Director of Air Force Public Affairs.

Colonel Schillerstrom's awards and decorations included the Legion of Merit with one oak leaf cluster, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with "V" Device, Vietnam Service Medal with four stars, and the Vietnam Honor Medal, First Class. He was promoted to the temporary grade of colonel effective June 1, 1977, with date of rank January 7, 1977.

After his retirement from the Air Force in 1984, Colonel Schillerstrom spent ten years as the Vice President of Communications for the Aerospace Industries Association. He continued serving the Air Force public affairs career field as a Lifetime Founder of the Air Force Public Affairs Association, and was a member of the Army Navy Country Club, The National Press Club, and the Military Order of the Carabao.

Colonel Schillerstrom passed away in 2014. His wife of 62 years, the former Carol Grahn of Evanston, IL, passed away in 2017. They have three surviving children: David, Linda, and Karen.