

COLONEL PETE ALEXANDRAKOS, USAF (Ret)

Born in Brooklyn, NY, in 1943, Pete Alexandrakos graduated from Stuyvesant High School, in Manhattan, before studying at New York University. He majored in marketing, with a minor in journalism. He also was in the Air Force ROTC Program; attaining the rank of cadet colonel and the position of cadet corps commander in his senior year. Upon graduation from NYU with a Bachelor of Science degree in June 1963, he was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the United States Air Force.

During the next 28 years, Colonel Alexandrakos had assignments in the 551st Airborne Early Warning & Control Wing at Otis AFB, Mass., 7th Air Force headquarters in the Republic of Vietnam; 390th Strategic Missile Wing and 12th Air Division at Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz., Strategic Air Command headquarters, at Offutt AFB, Neb., 43rd Strategic Wing and 3rd Air Division at Andersen AFB, Guam, Secretary of the Air Force Office of Public Affairs in the Pentagon, Air Force Systems Command headquarters at Andrews AFB, Md., and 15th Air Force headquarters at March AFB, Calif. Colonel Alexandrakos culminated his Air Force career in the Pentagon as Director for Plans in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs).

Colonel Alexandrakos served primarily as a public affairs officer during his Air Force career, with other assignments as an administrative officer, missile launch officer, executive officer and general's aide (in the 12th Air Division). In the 390th Strategic Missile Wing, he served as a Titan II ICBM combat crew commander and instructor combat crew commander.

He is a graduate of the Air War College, the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, the Air Command and Staff College and Squadron Officers School. While on active duty, he earned a Master's degree in management from Central Michigan University.

His military decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal, the Air Force Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters, the Air Force Commendation Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

After retirement from the Air Force in August 1991, Colonel Alexandrakos entered the financial services industry with the United Services Planning Association (USPA&IRA). He then served as public affairs manager in the Washington office of The MITRE Corporation.

He is a co-founder of the Air Force Public Affairs Alumni Association. After serving five years on the Association's first board of directors, and nearly eight years as treasurer, he was honored as the first recipient of the Association's Mike McRaney Distinguished Service Award in 2001.

Colonel Alexandrakos and his wife, Judy, have been married for 53 years. He is also survived by his daughter, Pam, his son-in-law, David, and his two grandchildren, Lia and Michael.