Saluting
ORANGE COUNTY'S
Veteran Leaders

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Three Veterans Share Lessons in Leadership, Trust and Service

How Military Service Shapes Character and a Commitment to Others

Editor's Note: The Orange County Business Journal talked with three veterans in honor of Veterans Day on Nov. 11. In addition, see Pimco co-founder Bill Gross' Leaderboard on page 35.

Pete Bowen: Magic Happens With Trust

ORANGE — When Pete Bowen would land his Harrier on an aircraft carrier, he was an experienced officer who had to obey instructions from a 19-year-old.

"He would guide me to the edge of the aircraft carrier where I could look down 60 feet to see water," Bowen recalled. "That 19-year-old would tell me to move further forward. I'd have to do exactly what that that 19-year said because he was in control of me. That's what makes the U.S. military so different. We trust each other."

> **"The fastest way out of poverty is leadership. If you know how to run a warehouse, you can make $150,000 to $160,000 a year."**
> *— Pete Bowen*

Bowen was born and raised in Southern California, including stints living in Laguna Beach and at El Toro Marine base where his father was stationed as a marine pilot.

Bowen joined the Navy ROTC and attended Notre Dame because it had a great books program on the humanities.

"You have to get away from home and see what the rest of the world looks like," he said.

He became a pilot of AV-8B Harriers, a difficult plane to maneuver because it could take off both vertically and fly horizontally.

"It's the most challenging airplane to fly. It has the capability to take off on two lane roads — hover as a jet and do vertical landings.

"If you make a small mistake in the Harrier, it could get you killed because we operated in small environments."

The planes often flew low to support Marines, which made the planes vulnerable to ground fire. He knew 20 pilots who died flying Harriers.

Forming Young Leaders

During his six years of flying Harriers from 1988-94, he didn't see combat even though the first Iraq war occurred in 1991 because his squadron deployed to Japan instead.

He eventually became the officer in charge of ROTC at Duke University, where he taught military history, ethics and leadership. He served 11 years on active duty and another 13 years in the reserves.

In 2004, he became president and CEO of Servite High School in Anaheim, the first non-priest to lead the school. He implemented several leadership programs and encouraged the 17-year-old students in a "mini-MBA" program to run the cafeteria, catering and retailing aspects of the school.

"The work centered on one core question: How do you form young people into leaders others can trust?" Bowen wrote on his LinkedIn page.

Giving Hope

Nowadays, he's living in the same house in Orange that his family has owned for 54 years. He and his wife, Angie, have three daughters.

He's active as a consultant for a variety of companies, saying most don't have a strategy problem but rather a relationship problem. He's taught leadership for 30 years to California law enforcement at the California POST Command College, preparing leadership for riots that would eventually come.



He's also CEO of Giving Children Hope, which helps house thousands of unstable children and their families move from crisis toward long-term success. He is involved with Toys-for-Tots, where he helped implement a program that kids had to read books to earn toys.

"The fastest way out of poverty is leadership," he said. "If you know how to run a warehouse, you can make $150,000 to $160,000 a year."

The most important thing he learned in the Marines that applies to the business world was trust. "Survival is about high trust relationships, period," he said. "Deviations from that could be catastrophic. If you don't trust yourself, then you cannot be part of it. Every aspect of life — business, nonprofit, home relationships — all are trust-based relationships.

"When you have high levels of trust, magic happens."

— Peter J. Brennan

Andrew Wilcox: Leading from the Front

ORANGE — Andrew Wilcox considered joining the Army before he decided on the Marine Corps.

"Marines had the biggest challenges and that's what I looked for," Wilcox said. "I was hardwired to be a Marine."

> **"In the Marine Corps, you know how to work hard or you don't make it."**
> *— Andrew Wilcox*

He certainly was as he entered as a private, attended Officer Training School and eventually served 31 years, rising to the rank of colonel.

He was career infantry, meaning he served in the Gulf War and two tours in Afghanistan as well as multiple tours on a Navy ship.

"They taught me how to lead, organize and be successful, set goals," he said. "How to strive for excellence, not cut corners."

Born in Connecticut and raised in Texas, his father was also a Marine who served at the end of the Korean War.

Among his many roles was as a commanding officer of the 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines where he oversaw 1,350 Marines and sailors in a unit that was nicknamed "the Magnificent Bastards."

When asked how he could convince young men to enter combat where they might be killed, he replied, "You share the adversity and the danger and they will follow you."

During his career, he was director of operational war plans in the Pacific for the Marines, a professor of Naval Science and Commanding Officer at the ROTCs of four Philadelphia universities and a leader of U.S. ground relief efforts following the 2004 tsunami that killed thousands in Indonesia.

When he retired, the Marines sent him to leadership classes, saying he had "great skills."

"I didn't believe them," he recalled. "I thought they were blowing smoke. In the Marines, everyone has great skills. When I got my first job, I realized I do have great skills."

Nowadays, he is the president of Raymond West, where his brother is the CEO.

Cypress-based Raymond West, which is owned by Toyota Industries, supplies logistic services and equipment like forklifts to major warehouses such as Home Depot, Amazon and Target.

Wilcox, who lives in Orange, oversees 1,600 employees at 28 branches from Anchorage to Tijuana. The company annually generates about $850 million in sales.

Wilcox said the Marines taught him how to organize and plan as well as make decisions. He often walks into the facilities to talk to employees.

"I make sure that they know they are important and that I give a [crap] about them. I look



at them eyeball to eyeball. Trust is a big deal to me. My leadership style is, 'give me a reason not to trust you.'"

All employees who are veterans are given a paid day off on Nov. 11. Since he joined in 2019, he's hired five Marine colonels.

"They're smart and well educated," he said. "They know operational leadership and know how to plan. In the Marine Corps, you know how to work hard or you don't make it."

He says he wouldn't change a thing about his career.

"I would go back and do it again. I went to 48 countries and even met President Obama. It was an exceptional experience."

— Peter J. Brennan

Three Veterans 22

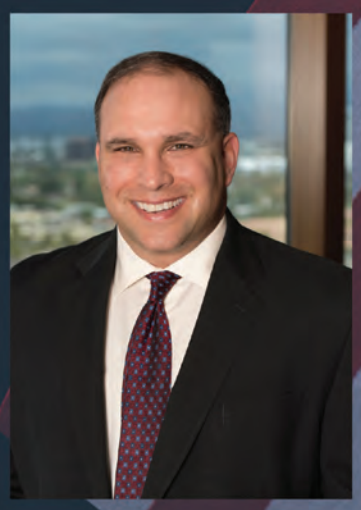
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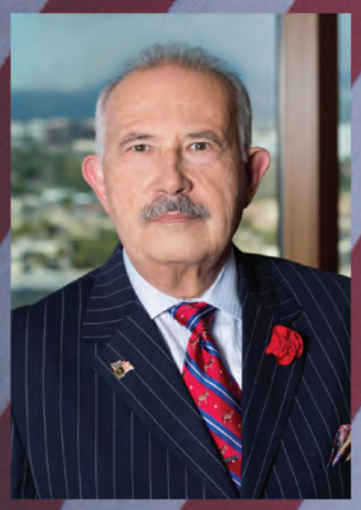
We are pleased to recognize our veterans today and we thank you for your dedication in and out of uniform.



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Ralph Linzmeier: Investing in Dreams

COTO DE CAZA — Ralph Linzmeier graduated from U.S. Air Force Academy in 1973, a time when the U.S. was ending its involvement in the Vietnam War.

"The Air Force Academy was like taking a sip out of a fire hose," he recalled. "The academies have this whole man concept. It's all about leadership that applies to the military and the world."

His father, Ralph Linzmeier Sr., was a highly decorated aviator who flew in the U.S. Eighth Air Force that became famous for flying dangerous raids over Germany during World War II.

> **"The Air Force Academy was like taking a sip out of a fire hose."**
> *— Ralph Linzmeier*

The younger Linzmeier was born in 1951 at Tripler Hospital on Oahu where his father was stationed. After graduation, he was too tall at 6'5" for fighter jets so he became a navigator on large C-130 cargo jets, flying around the world.

"I was a single young guy enjoying life," he recalled. "I enjoyed what the military did for me. It really prepared me for life."

The Investment World

After leaving the service in 1982, Linzmeier met Oonagh Devlin. The couple raised four children and now have three grandchildren.

He earned an MBA from Abilene Christian University and joined Shearson, a brokerage firm that eventually morphed into Morgan Stanley.

In a 2008 article, the Business Journal noted that Linzmeier was named Orange County's top ranked financial adviser by the Winner's Circle Organization, which is now owned by Barron's magazine.

"It's been a difficult market, but I anticipated much of this," Linzmeier said at the time.

He recently deadpanned about being named No. 1 in 2008 because, "We avoided losing money in the financial crisis."

Linzmeier became well known in fundraising circles, winning the Outstanding Philanthropist Fundraiser for Orange County. He and Oonagh received The Pope Saint John Paul II Award for Diligence.

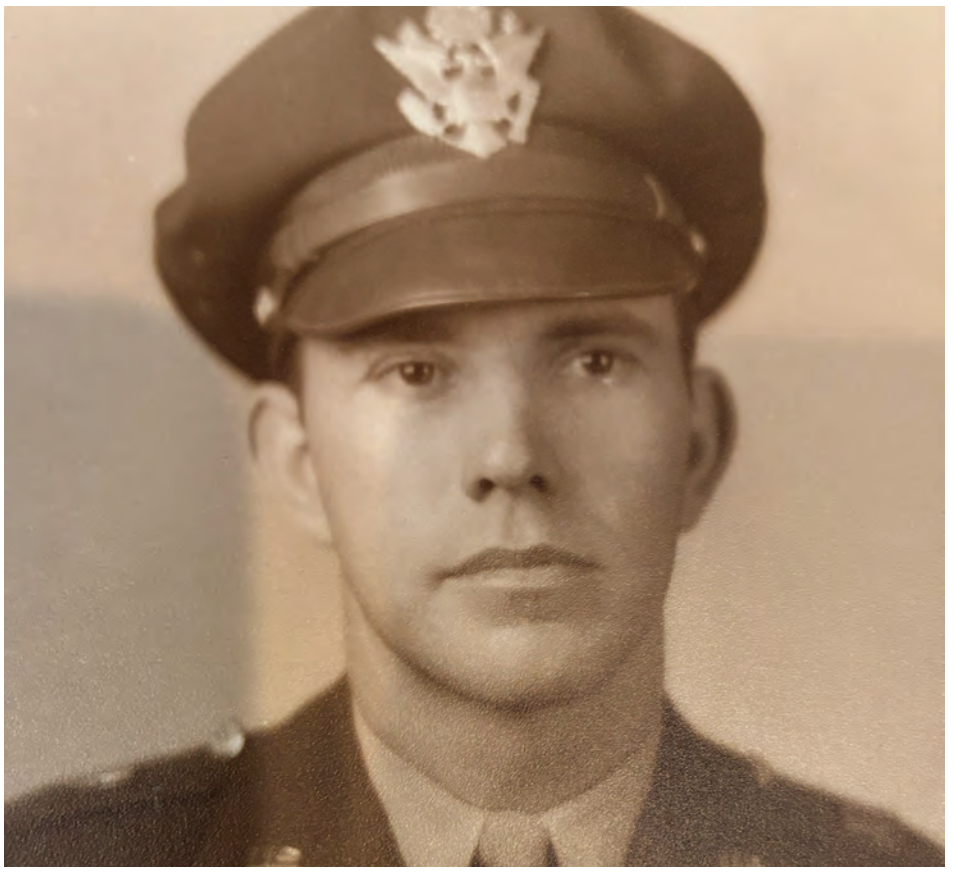
With two other couples, Ralph and Oonagh developed, co-founded and lead the effort to create Saint Junipero Serra Catholic, which has grown to become the largest Catholic Grade School in America.

He was a president of the local chapter of Legatus, an organization that strives to spread the Catholic faith in their business, professional and private lives. He was also on Legatus' National Board of Governors.

Linzmeier is a Knight of Malta, served on its board and chaired the Hospitallar Committee which works with 61 charities throughout the Western United States to support those in poverty and provide care for the sick.

He was also involved in politics, including co-chairman of the Mitt Romney presidential campaign, where he raised $11 million along with Gen. William Lyon.

After 40 years, Linzmeier retired as a managing director at Morgan Stanley. He's still active in investing, discussing the M2 money supply, inflation and the dollar, among other subjects.



"Last year, I just killed it," he said. "I was up over 200%."

A Devastating Loss

About four years ago, his family suffered a devastating loss when their youngest child, Brendan, who was in law school, died due to medication issues.

"I got so exhausted from praying," Linzmeier said.

To honor their son, the couple became involved in "Fruitful Futures Project," a nonprofit begun by local vet Manny Montanez devoted to helping inspire fruitfulness in life.

"I no longer have personal dreams," he said. "I want to help other people with their truths. We're investing in people's dreams.

"Everything comes together for the good. I've been so blessed in so many ways."

— Peter J. Brennan





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Our commitment extends beyond the workplace. Through the Ducommun Foundation, we support organizations including United Way, Fisher House Foundation, American Legion House, and the American Battle Monuments Commission, contributing meaningful donations toward initiatives benefiting veterans and their families.

We are honored to recognize those who have served, celebrate the contributions of veterans across our organization, and continue creating opportunities for those who have given so much.





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Our commitment to veterans extends further. Veterans bring leadership, teamwork, adaptability, and a mindset that strengthen both our culture and our performance. Parker supports veteran success through dedicated hiring initiatives, military skills translation during onboarding, structured mentorship, and leadership-development opportunities.

Our team members find community, advocacy, and career-growth support within Parker. Learning pathways and certifications help veterans turn military experience into meaningful, high-impact careers. We also provide flexibility for Guard and Reserve obligations, well-being resources for veterans and their families, and partnerships with organizations that support transitioning service members.

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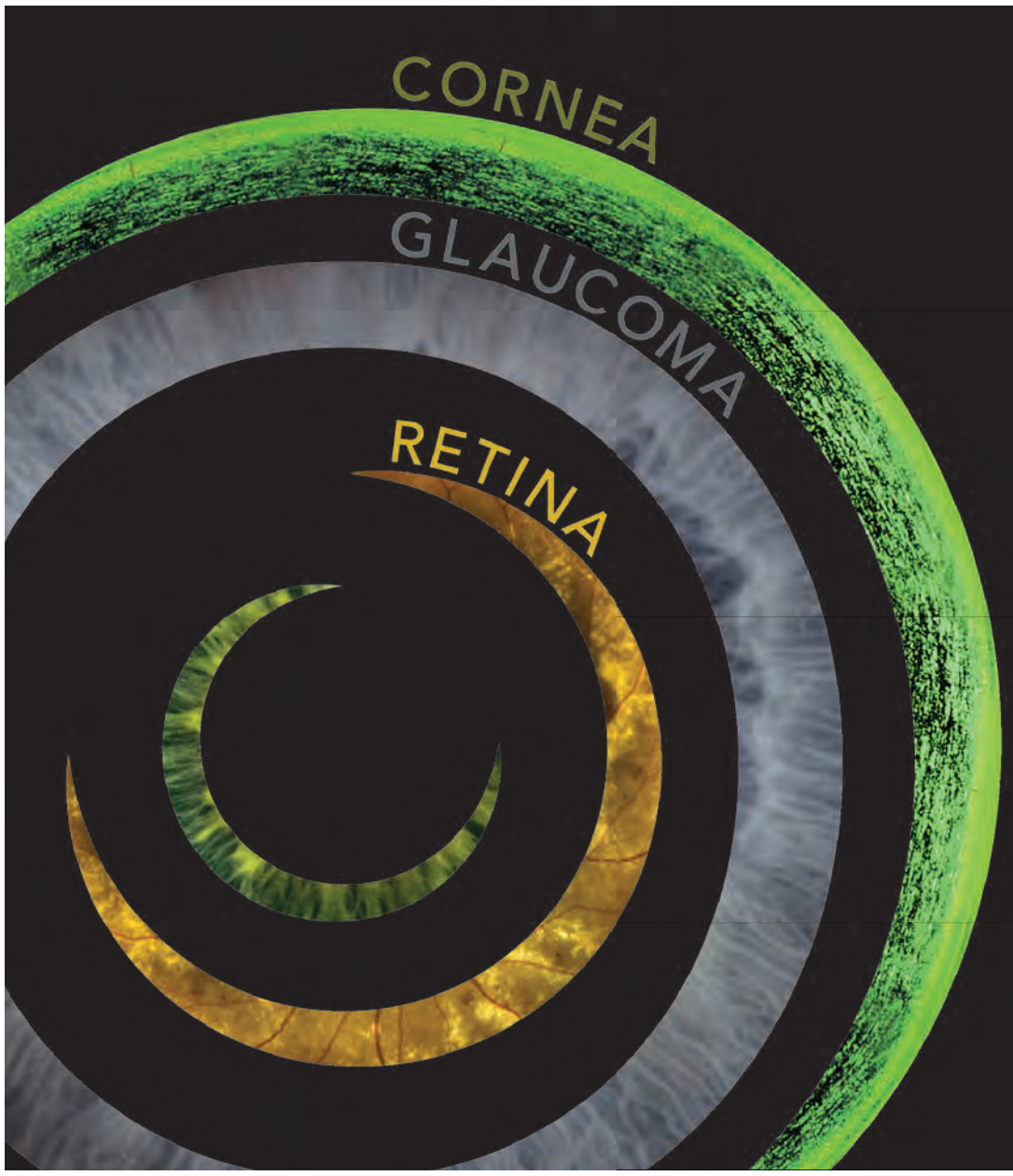


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