

Jan Collmer

Brief Aviation & Military Biography

Jan was born in Dallas in 1934, graduated from Jesuit high School and got an Assoc degree in Mechanical Engineering from Arlington State College (now UTA) before going into the Navy Flight Training program in Pensacola, Florida. After four years active duty flying the early Navy jets he returned to Arlington for a four year program in Math and Physics. He graduated from UTA with high honors in 1963 after five GREULING years of night school (and 3 young daughters by then).

He joined the Navy Flight Program in Pensacola at age 19 (June 1954), got his first carrier landing in April 1955 and his Navy Wings of Gold in January 1956. He flew the early Navy jets such as the Panther, Cougar, Banshee, and Fury and finally the Dallas built Chance Vought F8U Crusader fighter. He was on active duty four years and then served eight years in the reserves at Naval Air Station Dallas (now NAS Fort Worth) He left the reserves to start graduate school at SMU. His final military rank was Lt Commander.

Jan really missed the flying and started airshow flying in 1978.

He still performs at several military airshows every year and for 20+ years at: NAS Corpus Christi/Kingsville, NAS (Dallas)/Fort Worth, NAS New Orleans, and NAS Pensacola. He had the privilege of flying in the final two airshow years at El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) and five or six years at MCAS Miramar when the Marines moved there from El Toro. He has done quite a few shows at USAF and National Guard bases over the years including Sioux Falls guard base in 2006 (with the Blue Angels), Fort Smith Guard Base, Little Rock AFB, Nellis AFB (Las Vegas), Dyess AFB (Abilene) and others.

He has done more than 400 shows over the last 30 years. He continues airshows now and appears in about 10-15 shows per year. his plane is a German built Extra 300L, one of the finest acrobatic planes made.

He was appointed to the DFW International Airport Board in 2004 and was elected Chairman of the Board from February 2006 until February 2008. His prior service on the DFW Board was 1986-1990 and 1994-1998. He has served an aggregate of 12 years on the DFW Board, the longest serving board member at DFW thus far.

He is a founder and President of Frontiers of Flight Museum at Love Field in Dallas which opened in 1990, a former trustee of the University of Dallas, former board member of the Regional Transportation Council, former board member of the North Texas Commission, Board member of the Breakfast Group (local Dallas politics), guest speaker at most of the management schools in the area and an active speaker for Texans for Lawsuit Reform (TLR). He was Chairman of the Greater Dallas Chamber 1988 and 1989. He was also Chairman of the American Electronics Assoc in 1978 and served on that board for 7 years.

He is a member of numerous civic, educational, military and aviation related organizations.

His and his wife Suzanne's charitable focus is excellence in education, especially the inspiration and motivation of our youth to excel.