

## Miles Brown

A year after graduating from high school, I was called to serve a mission for the LDS church in the Eastern States Mission with headquarters in New York City. New York was hosting a World's Fair in 1965 and the church had a pavilion at the fair. The facade of the pavilion looked like a scaled down version of the East side of the Salt Lake Temple, right down to the Angel Moroni on the center spire. I had the opportunity to serve as a tour guide at the Pavilion for several weeks.

Upon returning from my mission, I attended the College of Eastern Utah. It was there that I met and married Jerri Biddinger. We were married in the Manti Temple on her 19th birthday (a child bride).

Shortly after our marriage in 1969 we moved to Logan, so I could attend Utah State University. I got the surprise of a lifetime just a few months after we moved. The United States Government held the first draft lottery since 1942. That lottery is the closest I have ever come to winning anything in my life. My birthdate, April 24th was number two. As you may recall in 1969 there was a place called Vietnam where the United States was involved in an undeclared war. Being number "2" in the lottery meant I no longer had a choice; I was going into the military.

Just a short time thereafter I received a letter from the White House. It started "Greetings from the President of the United States..." It was my official draft notice into the US Army. I immediately went to talk to the friendly navy recruiter and joined the navy on a delayed enlistment. This allowed me to finish my senior year and receive a bachelor's degree. Ten days after graduating from Utah State, I was in navy boot camp in San Diego, California.

Shortly after I completed boot camp, I was accepted into the Navy's Officer Training Corp. I then spent the next ten years as an officer in the Navy Supply Corp.

My first duty assignment was the pay master on a submarine repair ship homeported in Sardinia, Italy. The repair ship provided support for all the Fast Attack Nuclear Submarines that were in the Mediterranean (and there

were a lot of them). Interestingly enough, it was an accompanied tour, meaning that my wife Jerri was able to go to Italy with me. When I wasn't on the ship I lived with Jerri in a small apartment in the city of La Madalena. Jerri often reminds me that it was just her who lived on the Italian economy and I had all the comforts of home on the ship. It was during our stay in Italy that our first daughter, Rachel, was born in Naples, Italy.

My next duty assignment was at the Naval Air Station Kingsville, Texas. This is where the Navy trains all its jet pilots. I had a nondescript job as a base accounting officer. During our stay in Texas our second daughter, Rebecca, was born in Corpus Christi, Texas.

While in Texas I applied to attend the Navy's Transportation Management School in Oakland, California. We were in Oakland for six months. After graduating from TMS I received orders to serve as the Air Terminal Manager at the Naval Air Station, Cubi Point in the Philippines. I was responsible for all incoming and outgoing cargo and passengers. I had 40 military and 70 civilian employees working for me. It was the busiest job I have ever held.

While in the Philippines I decided to get out of the Navy and pursue a civilian career. We moved back to Price, and I went to work as the purchasing agent for ARCO Coal Company. We lived in Price for six years, during which time our son Samuel was born. ARCO then moved us to Paonia, Colorado. About a year into our stay in Colorado, ARCO closed the coal mine and terminated everyone.

I got a position as a purchasing agent with Thiokol in Brigham City. I worked in the Space Division, which manufactured booster motors for the space shuttle. I took the opportunity to retire from Thiokol after 22 years. There was an opportunity to work in Salt Lake City for L-3 Communications. I worked there for nearly seven years and again an opportunity to retire was presented to me, so I retired again, this time for good.

I guess you could say my career has taken me from the nuclear age to the jet age to the coal age, and finally to the space age.

Jerri and I developed a love for travel while we were in the navy. We have pursued that love during the last 10 years. We have visited 15 countries in Europe and the mid-east. We have been to 12 countries in the Orient and

Southern Pacific. And except for Brazil, we have been in every country in North and South America. We even took a side trip to Antarctica.

Of all the places we visited, my favorite was the ten days we spent in the Holy Land.

The last 35 years in Brigham City have brought many changes to our family. All our children have married and have families of their own. We have ten grandchildren, five girls and five boys. Our oldest granddaughter got married a year ago, but who knows when great grandchildren will arrive.

We had a real tragedy in our family a little over two years ago. Our daughter Rebecca's husband served in the Air Force for 21 years. About six months after he retired, he committed suicide due to PTSD. Most of our questions go unanswered.

Jerri and I served a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. We were service missionaries with Farmland Reserve. We often joke that the Lord has a sense of humor, He sent the Browns to a Nut Farm in California to work for the other "Profit".

We are currently serving as Ordinance Workers in the Brigham City Temple.