

## **Veteran Gives Service to Highland Beach**

John Shoemaker

Although David Stern graduated from Pace College in New Your City and was given an opportunity to start his career with a good job offer in retail supply management, in 1963 Dave decided to join the Army Reserve and fulfill his military service.

A quiet, unassuming man, Dave went to “ for basic training and then on to Fort Dix in New Jersey for his six months of active duty before continuing his full six years in the Army Reserves. While he enlisted as a private, he soon worked his way up to Staff Sergeant. He was also assigned to the “Special Reserve Force” as a Supply Sergeant.

As many in the military know, the US Armed Forces’ success over the years was very much dependent on its outstanding logistical capability, unmatched by any country in the World.

Looking back, Dave said that one aspect that has stuck with him all his life is the focus on leading a disciplined life of exercise. And sure enough, today, he still weighs less than when he enlisted in the Army.

Being in Army logistics/supply was a perfect start to a career that would continue for decades after the Army and began with a focus on supply operations for several retail companies. He would hold positions from Vice President to Executive Vice President and President. Brand names included Abraham & Straus to the multi-billion-dollar operations of the “Ross Stores” as Vice President of Store Communications and store Planning.

Even after he retired, Dave did not rest. He has served the community of Highland Beach over the years holding volunteer positions as a member of many boards/teams including the Water Plant Audit team; member of the Charter Review Board; and both member and later Chairman of the Board of Adjustment and Appeals; member and later Chairman of the Code Enforcement Board, and a member and later Chairman of the Financial Advisory Board.

That kind of track record supported his recent appointment by the Town Commission to fill the vacancy when Commissioner Peggy Gossett-Seidman won the election to our State Legislature.

While doing all of that, Dave has also been active as President of the Temple Sinai in Delray Beach, and currently serves as an Arbitrator for the FINRA (Financial Industry Regulatory Authority).

If that is not enough, Dave is currently the President of the beautiful Highland Place Condominium Association.

All of this demonstrates a commitment to service and Highland Beach has greatly benefited from his contributions. It also points to the fact that the Town has many open positions on various Boards needing residents who will utilize their backgrounds and skills to assist our town in dealing with a myriad of needs as we deal with typical challenges on a barrier island in Florida.

Dave and his wife, Judy, love Highland Beach. They have two married sons, one a Superior Court Judge in R.I. and the other in Real Estate in Florida. In addition, they have a total of five grandchildren.

Judy owned a Flower shop in New Jersey and had previously sold real estate. When they moved to Florida she went back to real estate and became a Broker for Prudential.

When David and Judy moved to Florida in 1988, they purchased a home in the Woodfield Country Club in Boca Raton. When they visited the beautiful town of Highland Beach, they immediately decided that it was the place they wanted to live. They moved to the "Clarendon Condominium" and settled in but later left for a great job opportunity in California.

However, they never forgot Highland Beach and after Dave retired in 2000 they moved back to the "Highlands Place Condominium" in Highland Beach, where they presently reside.

Dave's commitment to service for the community is proven by decades of volunteer work and is always ready to join in efforts to make us all proud of our town.

He is a Veteran hero who makes us proud.





