

## PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

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We are now living in an age where too many Americans have lost pride in their country and are too eager to find fault with our history, values and culture, I am proud to be an American. I am proud to be the embodiment of the American Dream. We are also living in an age where instead of reading and forming our own opinions, we rely upon the internet or streaming services for most of our information and opinions. As one student said to me, I read it on the internet and it has to be true.

I am one who firmly believes that we need to know the background, some of the history of the people to whom we listen or whose books we read. Know the source of your information and the bias's of your source, as we all have certain bias's and prejudices which impact our thinking and behavior.

With that in mind, I will take a few moments to introduce myself. I was born in New York City in 1939. My parents were poor. I was told that when they took me home from the hospital they shared a cold water flat with another couple. That means there was no hot water available. Until the age of 13 we lived in a section of the Bronx populated by families of the lower middle class who believed in hard work and education. At that time, New York schools were strict and academically rigorous. I started working at the age of 12 delivering packages from the local Kosher butcher all over that section of the Bronx delivering into tenement buildings with no elevators in six story buildings. That section of the Bronx later became infamous as "Fort Apache".

Pursuing the American dream, we moved to Los Angeles where our lives improved to the level of real middle class. My parents eventually purchased their own home and I can only imagine their pride at that time. In high school, I was a nobody, an average student expected to go college. I attended Los Angeles City College and in trying to develop my social skills, I did so well in that regard that I was "disinvited" to return for a degree following two years of poor grades.

I volunteered for the draft and served my two years in the Army and was honorably discharged. I am proud to have served and proud to be a veteran although I never saw combat.

I literally begged my way to be admitted to Los Angeles State College, now known as California State University, Los Angeles. I was admitted on probation and told that if I ever received a grade lower than a C, I would be dismissed. I graduated with a 3.9 GPA out of a possible 4.0.

In 1963, upon graduating with my B.A. degree, my Aunt and Uncle, who were living in Taiwan, where my Uncle was working as a Civil Engineer under contract with the U.S. Army to help rebuild Taiwan, they invited me to join them in Taiwan for a year. Sort of a graduation present. I accepted. Back then, before jets, it took over two days flying on Pan

Am to reach Taipei city. The nine months I spent in Taiwan changed my life and put me on the path to where I am now. I knew nothing about China or the Chinese people and clearly did not speak Chinese. As a young man with rampant hormones, I was out to date as many local woman as possible. Only problem is that none of them spoke English. Taiwan had been a Japanese colony from 1895-1945. I enrolled in a missionary sponsored language school to learn Chinese where I was the only non-missionary student. Little did my Christian classmates nor my Chinese Christian teacher know of my true motivation.

I was fascinated by Chinese culture and the Chinese people that I came to meet and know. As a result, I applied for and was accepted on a scholarship to the East-West Center at the University of Hawaii. I was fortunate to begin my studies under some of the most brilliant minds assembled at that University. I was introduced not only to Chinese history and more formal language training, but introduced to the culture of East and Southeast Asia.

I was then accepted to study at the University of Michigan and the recipient of National Defense Foreign Language Fellowships, followed by a University of Michigan fellowship, and then the recipient of a Fulbright Fellowship that allowed me to engage in research for my Ph.D. I was the first American student and only the second foreigner allowed to study the documents of the Kuomintang Party Archives. A special fellowship from the American Council of Learned Societies and the Social Science Research Council allowed me to complete my research at the Institute of History of Academia Sinica in Taipei.

I received my Ph.D. from the University of Michigan in 1972 – nine years after first being introduced to the Chinese language and culture in Taiwan.

After brief stints as a Visiting Professor at the University of Illinois and California State University, Long Beach, I was hired for a tenure track position at California State University, Fullerton where I taught for thirty years until my retirement.

After my first year of teaching and trying to raise a family on an Assistant Professor's salary, I was accepted a Loyola Law School in Los Angeles. I taught during the day and went to school in the evenings. Along the way, I received a Fellowship from the Social Science Research Council to do research on the comparative law of China and the U.S. Upon graduating from law school, no law firm saw any value in my knowledge of China. I therefore stayed at Fullerton teaching until my retirement.

In 1985, I was invited by the Foreign Trade Association of Orange County to give a speech on the new joint venture law of China. After that speech, I was approached and asked to be an unpaid consultant to a new company in Los Angeles that was formed to develop trade with China. I accepted, subsequently became the President and in the winter of 1985 made my first trip to China. Since then, until three years ago, I have worked as a consultant on trade with China. I have made over 150 trips to China, traveled over 2/3 of the county as an advisor for large and small corporations in the United States and Latin America. I have visited hundreds of factories, spoken with and had hundreds of conversations with high ranking party leaders, academicians, engineers, factory workers,

students and people from all walks of life. I have made life long friends with many of them.

Bottom line, I know China better than almost anyone else in this country with my combination of scholarly training, working as an international trade advisor, and traveling over the country. I am now retired and living in Nashville as my wife was recruited to come here as a Senior Executive for a NYSE listed corporation.