



## **Bryan Fujimoto Class of 1983**

### **Please tell us a little bit about yourself and include the year you graduated.**

Bryan A. Fujimoto, Student Body President in Junior year and Senior Class President, One of the Captains of the Football team and Valedictorian Class of '83. I am a retired US Air Force Lieutenant Colonel. After I retired from the USAF, I was a home inspector in my own business and a stay-at-home dad for about 8 years while my wife was still active in the Air Force. When my wife retired from the Air Force in 2019, we moved to Monument, Colorado and built our own home. I then went into Residential Construction and have been building and remodeling homes ever since. We have 2 boys, 16 (sophomore) and 14 (freshman) and 2 German Shepherds.

### **Where do you live now? What do you love about it?**

Monument, Colorado. It is near my wife and my alma mater, the US Air Force Academy where we both went to college and where my wife now mentors and teaches Aviation to cadets at the Academy. We bought land in Monument back in 2006 and then built a home on it 2019-2020. We love the area because many of our classmates and friends from the Academy and our

time in the Air Force have settled here; our 2 boys are thriving in a great school district; we have my brother's family (Greg, KHS '84) and my sister's family (Cindy, KHS '79) settled here nearby. There is a lot of outdoor activities we can do here year 'round, and we are centrally located in the CONUS for traveling on vacation and visiting friends.

**Describe your career path since graduating from Konawaena High.**

1983-1987: Attended the US Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, CO. While there competed as an intercollegiate athlete on the Powerlifting Team, learned how to fly gliders and did freefall parachuting. I graduated at the top of my class in the Civil Engineering major. Upon graduating, I was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the US Air Force and earned a BSCE, emphasis in Structural Engineering.

1987-1988: Attended Undergraduate Navigator Training, Sacramento, CA where I earned my wings and got assigned to fly as a Weapon Systems Officer (WSO, referred to as a 'whizzo') flying in the backseat of Fighter Aircraft (similar to "Goose" in Topgun), specifically the RF-4C Phantom.

1988-1989: Learned to fly and employ as a WSO in the RF-4C, in Austin, TX. The RF-4C is a 2-seat Fighter with the primary mission of providing pre- and post-strike photos of targets.

1989-1990: Assigned to the 15th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron (TRS) in the RF-4C in Okinawa, Japan and flew and trained in Japan, South Korea and the Philippines.

1990-1992: Assigned to the 12th TRS in the RF-4C, Austin, TX and while there deployed in support of Operation Desert Storm, primary objective to free Kuwait from Iraqi aggression

and invasion. We were based in the country of Bahrain, an island nation in the Persian Gulf.

1992-1996: Transitioned to fly as a WSO in the F-15E Strike Eagle, 336th Fighter Squadron (FS) based in North Carolina. The F-15E is another 2-seat fighter with the dual role missions of Air-to-Air (shooting down enemy airplanes with missiles and a 20mm cannon) and Air-to-Ground (bombing or strafing enemy targets). While in the 336th FS, deployed multiple times to Southwest Asia in support of Operation Southern Watch, objective of keeping the skies over Iraq clear of Iraqi aircraft and ensure the Iraqi Army did not move south. Flew almost 300 combat sorties over a combined deployment of 10 months based in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

1996-1997: Was trained to instruct and then assigned in the F-15S Strike Eagle (Saudi version) in the 55th FS, in Saudi Arabia as an Instructor with the Royal Saudi Air Force to teach them to fly and employ the Strike Eagle and then teach them to instruct in the Strike eagle.

1997-2000: Assigned back to North Carolina in the 333rd FS, 334th FS and the 4th Operations Group as an Instructor WSO in the F-15E and as an Evaluator for higher headquarters to ensure lethal combat capability is maintained in the 4 fighter squadrons of the 4th Fighter Wing. Also, earned through distance learning, a Master of Science Degree in Civil Engineering, Structural Engineering, Colorado State University, CO.

2000-2004: Attended Graduate School at Air University, Montgomery, AL, earned a Masters of Military Operational Art and Science degree. Then assigned to San Antonio, TX in the

Air Force Personnel Center, managed assignments of bases for all Fighter Pilots and WSOs in the Air Force. Married US Air Force Pilot and Captain, Jennifer Young, from Dallas, TX.

2004-2007: Assigned back to the F-15E in the 492nd FS and 48th Fighter Wing, Royal Air Force Base Lakenheath, England. Wife, Jen, was assigned to the 494th FS as a Fighter Pilot. Multiple deployments around Europe to train and fly with NATO air forces and evaluate NATO Fighter Pilots and WSOs in their mission capabilities.

2007-2011: Both Jen and I were assigned to Headquarters Pacific Air Forces, Honolulu, HI serving on the headquarters staff with the mission of Command and Control of all Air and Space forces in the Pacific Theater, from the West Coast of the US out to all of Asia up to India. We had our 2 boys on this assignment, both born in Honolulu, 14 months apart. I retired from the US Air Force out of this assignment with 24 years of service at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, with 2700 flight hours in Fighter Aircraft.

2011-2019: Started my own business as a Home Inspector, inspecting houses for clients that were purchasing a house. Also supported my wife as she continued to fly the F-15E as an instructor and later as a Squadron Commander. Lived in North Carolina, Alabama, South Korea and Virginia.

2019-Present: Jen retired from the US Air Force after 21 years of service and we settled down in Monument, CO and built a home and now work as described above.

**What was your most memorable experience at KHS?**

The many friends I had at KHS; playing Football and Basketball

and winning multiple Island championships in Football. The people make all the difference.

**What advice would you give to Konawaena High School students?**

Don't ever sell yourself short, you may come from a small town and small school in Hawaii, but you can still work hard and achieve your dreams where ever and whatever they may be.