

Spotlight on Pam Schwab Huffstutter

Life after Azusa High School

After leaving Azusa High School, Pam attended Citrus Junior College and received an AA degree. A month later she started working as a secretary for Aerojet. In 1965 she married Bill Huffstutter - class of 1959, the same year he graduated with his teaching credential. They lived in Japan for three years where Bill was stationed in the Air Force. They were able to travel all over the Orient and that is where Pam developed a love for traveling. They returned back to the States to live in Orange County for 26 years where they raised their two children. While Pam worked, she was active in PTA at both kids' schools and was a Girl Scout leader. For the past 13 years they have been living in Bakersfield and enjoy living on an 8 acre lake with their 12 foot boat, towering pine trees, mallards, and squirrels which reminds them of a mountain resort. Pam retired 5 months ago and loves her new life.



Bill and Pam at home in Bakersfield, California

Work

In 1967 Pam joined Bill in Japan where they lived for over 3 years on an Air Force hospital base that provided temporary treatment for wounded military coming back from Vietnam. While Bill worked in hospital administration, Pam worked in the Headquarters Building as secretary to the Deputy Commander for Operations and Deputy Commander for Services who provided support to over 35,000 U.S. military and dependents in the Tokyo Metropolitan area. They lived in a Japanese paddy house for part of the time and on the weekends they worked with Japanese teachers of English helping them prepare audio tapes for their school classes. One of their highlights while there was a visit from our classmate, Ken MacDermott, who was stationed in Vietnam and traveling on R & R in the Tokyo area. While in Japan they climbed Mt Fuji, rode the bullet train, visited Hiroshima, and did as much and saw as much of Japan as they possibly could. They also took trips to other countries – Hong Kong, Korea, Taiwan, Philippines, and to Thailand to see Pam's brother, Dave Schwab, Class of 1964, who was stationed there in the Army.



*Pam enjoying green tea and rice cookies
Shikoko Island, Japan – Japanese hotel room*

Upon returning to the States, Pam enjoyed working at the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station as secretary to the Deputy Director of Supply Dept. She took a break to stay home with two babies and then she worked 15 years for an Orange County School District. One Christmas she was in the office and a school district board member walked in who was playing Santa Claus. He took off his beard and it was Marvin Stewart, our Science teacher and coach from Azusa High – he was our youngest and cutest teacher on campus. She enjoyed talking to him and, yes, he still is great looking!! Pam worked 13 more years as a secretary at a Bakersfield School District and then retired after 28 years with the school system.

Family

Pam and Bill have a close woven family. They each have one sibling, and Pam's brother, Dave Schwab – class of 64 married Bill's sister, Kathy Huffstutter – class of 66, who live in Washington State.



Pam and Bill with kids and grandkids – 2008

Pam and Bill have two children. Their son Randy and his wife are both aerospace engineers and live in Torrance with their two children. Their daughter Robin has a Masters in linguistics and works for a legal research company in San Francisco. Every year Pam's and Bill's family have a family reunion with their brother and sister and their kids and grandkids

Play

Pam's favorite past times include working in the garden, attending live concerts at Buck Owens Crystal Palace, square dancing, traveling, and eating Japanese food such as sushi once a week. They have square danced for 20 years and now enjoy square dancing all over Kern County and the state of California.



Pam & Bill – Cancun, Mexico



*Pam & Bill - square dance at
Lake Isabella, California*

Pam still loves traveling and some of her favorite places they vacationed with their kids include Mammoth, Cabo San Lucas, Mazatlan, house boating on Lake Powell, and 22-day motor home trip across the U.S. They took a 16-day trip through Central Europe (Germany, Poland, Hungary, Austria and Czech Republic) where they visited their daughter who was in the Peace Corps for 2 years teaching English in a high school in Poland. They saw such historic treasures as remnants of the Berlin Wall and Auschwitz Concentration Camp. They continue traveling now with different friends. Some of Pam's more recent favorite trips are Washington D.C.; Pigeon Forge, Tennessee; St. Croix; Trinidad & Tobago (where she learned to scuba dive); Cancun; Victoria, Canada; and the Hawaiian Islands.

Now that they are retired, they plan to spend more time with their grandkids, square dance as often as possible, and they have already planned four trips for this year.