



Sharon Sparrow Stiles Class of 2017

Sharon Sparrow Stiles graduated from Oroville High School (OHS) in 1959 and was active in both the Latin and Pep Clubs. Outside of school, she was active in Jobs Daughters and went through all the organizations chairs to become Honored Queen. She also worked as a sales clerk at the Jay Vee Women's Dress Shop.

Sharon obtained her college degrees later in life, earning her AA degree in 1977 from the University of Maryland, Heidelberg, Germany, and her BA degree in Occupational Education in 1987 from Southern Illinois University, making the Dean's List at both schools.

Following graduation from OHS, Sharon went to work for Pacific Telephone and Telegraph in Sacramento, where she was a tele-typist and investigated fraudulent use of long distance phone services. After one year, she went to work for the federal government General Services Administration where she served on the federal switchboard during the Cuban missile crisis and President Kennedy's assassination. For the next eight years, she worked in the general Electric Nuclear Power Plant in San Jose as a finance assistant and in 1973 moved to the United States Army Military Community in Zweibruecken, Germany where she was president of the Community's Pre-Kindergarten School.

1976 saw Sharon return to the United States to hold the first job-share given by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) Training Institute in Seattle, WA, and there she attained the position of Personnel Management Supervisor. Her career with OPM ended in 1985, with her serving as a Training Instructor.

The remainder of Sharon's career encompassed working for the U. S. Navy and Army. Her occupations were in the Human Resources area as a Training Officer and Equal Employment Opportunity Officer. From 1985 – 2002, she had the opportunity to live in many communities which included Washington State (Keyport Undersea Warfare, Submarine Base Bangor and Trident Refit Facility), and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. She then moved to the U.S. Army 415th Base Support Battalion, Kaiserslautern, Germany, 80th Area Support Group, Chievres, Belgium and ended her career at Region Southwest Dispute Resolution Center in San Diego. As a civilian, Sharon served the Army and Navy for approximately 17 years earning what was the equivalent rank of Lt. Colonel in the Army and CDR in the Navy.

The highlights of Sharon's career were working in Cuba during the Haitian coup d'etat in Haiti, receiving the Commanders Award for Civilian Service in Belgium and attending the equivalent of the War College for civilians, called the Army Management Staff College in Fort Belvoir, VA where she was awarded 2nd place in writing competition. She shared that the most rewarding part of her career was serving as a mediator for both the Army and Navy. The rewards of leading the mediation process and watching people reach consensus through that process was the highlight of her career.

After retiring in 2002, Sharon moved to Florence, OR where she was highly active in community affairs and started her own consulting business, "Communicating with Stiles", where she contracted with local agencies including City Hall and the Chamber of Commerce. She also was a member of the Action for Women's Lives and the City Club of Florence, where she served as an officer on the board. In 2003, she graduated from Leadership Florence and was active training local citizens in public affairs and in 2009, attended the Ford Foundation Leadership Program.

In 2009, she was elected to the Board of Trustees for Lane Community College (LCC) where she served as chairman and vice-chairman during her two terms. During her tenure as a trustee at LCC, the college was celebrating its 50th year and was building a new downtown campus in Eugene, OR. It was one of the few community colleges in the state to build student housing on a downtown campus with 100% occupancy. In 2017, Sharon accepted the Healthy Campus Award for LCC, the ceremony being held at the White House in Washington DC and First Lady Michelle Obama being the keynote speaker.

After living in Florence for 15 years, Sharon recently moved back to Washington State and makes her home in Bremerton in the Seattle area. She has two sons, Matt who lives in Tampa, FL, Adam in Eugene, OR, and three grandchildren. Her brother, Glen Sparrow, was inducted into the OUHSD Hal of Fame in 2015.