

MICHAEL A. BLUM - Biography

Michael A. Blum enlisted in the Marine Corps in December 1960. Upon completion of Recruit Training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, he was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines at Camp Pendleton. In October 1962, the Battalion boarded ship and sailed for Cuba in response to the "Cuban Missile Crisis". After spending two months at sea off the coast of Cuba, they returned to the States and then boarded ship for Okinawa. He went on to serve in Japan, Korea, the Philippines and Vietnam.

Upon return to the States in 1964, he was assigned to Marine Corps Base, Quantico then to Marine Corps Supply Activity, Philadelphia. He received an Honorable Discharge in June 1965, with the rank of Corporal. While on active duty, Mike earned the Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal, Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (Cuba), Vietnam Service Medal w/bronze star, Korean Defense Service Medal and the Republic of Vietnam Presidential Unit Citation Ribbon.

Mike spent nearly forty years in the business world, where he started as a Management Trainee and worked as a Department Store Buyer, Merchandise Manager, Operations Manager and was a Vice President and General Manager for the Hecht's Division of May Department Stores (now Macy's). He retired from Hecht's in November 2004 to become the National Executive Director of the Marine Corps League.

During Mike's retail career, he served as a Division Vice President and General Manager for Hecht Company stores in Arlington, Virginia, Annapolis and Baltimore Maryland.

In 1980, Mike was promoted to the Hecht's store in Annapolis. A \$40 million, 141,000 square foot full-line department store. Annapolis was the #4 profit store in the company 3 consecutive years. In 1985, Mike opened a new Hecht's store at Owings Mills Mall in Baltimore. He ran that store for three years and returned to the Annapolis store in 1988 to handle the planning and execution of a \$13 million, 60,000 square foot expansion and total remodel of existing space.

In 1993, Mike was assigned to Hecht's Security Mall Store in Baltimore where he served until he retired in 2004 to become the National Executive of the Marine Corps League.

Mike joined the Baltimore Detachment, Marine Corps League in 1993. He went on to serve in several volunteer elected positions at the local and State level. He also served as Mideast Division Adjutant, Assistant Division Vice Commandant and National Vice Commandant, Mideast Division which encompassed Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, Delaware and Washington, D.C. He has served on the National Bylaws Committee and the National Budget and Finance

Committee. He also served as Assistant National Comptroller. In August 2003, Mike was elected National Judge Advocate for the Marine Corps League, continuing to serve on the National Board of Trustees. Mike was named Marine of the Year for the State of Maryland in 2005. In August 2010, he was named an Honorary Past National Commandant of the Marine Corps League. He is only the 16th Marine Corps League member to be so honored since 1937.

In 1998, Mike created the Maryland Marine Corps Coordinating Council, an umbrella organization of Marine Corps related organizations throughout Maryland. He served as President of that organization from its inception. He also served on the Maryland Joint Veterans Committee, having been elected as the Treasurer. In 1992, Mike was appointed to the Selective Service System (Draft Board) where he served for nearly 20 years as Chairman of Board 50-2 in Maryland. He has received a Governors Citation for his dedication to the needs of veterans and their families, a Leadership Award from the VA Maryland Health Care System as well as recognition from Charlotte Hall Veterans Home. Mike served on the Board of Directors of the Arlington, Virginia Chamber of Commerce and the Anne Arundel County YMCA. He also served as an advisor to the Arlington County School System's Distributive Education Program. In addition, he has lectured on Leadership and Management Skills to such organizations as the State Department of Mental Health in Maryland.

Mike was selected and hired by the Board of Trustees as the National Executive Director of the Marine Corps League on September 13, 2004. The Marine Corps League is the country's largest Marine Corps veterans' association.

In addition to his duties as Chief Operating Officer of the Marine Corps League, Mike served three terms as Chairman of the National Marine Corps Council before being elected as the Executive Chairman of the Council. He also served for ten years as Treasurer of the Military Coalition, representing 5.5 Million Veterans as well as serving on the Department of Veterans Affairs' National Veterans Day Committee. Mike regularly represented the Marine Corps League on Capitol Hill on issues regarding the military and veterans' community and worked closely with Headquarters, United States Marine Corps, the Department of Defense and the Joint Chiefs of Staff, in support of their many missions.

After a very successful career in retail department store management followed by 11 years of service to Marine Corps veterans, Mike joined Keller Williams Realty in July 2015, after having been a licensed Realtor for more than 25 years. With over 690 offices throughout the country, they are the largest and finest real estate sales organization in the nation. Mike is passionate about serving the military and veteran's community while providing services to families and individuals looking to sell or buy a home.

Mike enjoys boating and fishing in his spare time. He and his wife Sandra have three (3) sons and two (2) granddaughters.