

# Kermitt Glenn

Inspector, F-15 program • St. Louis

## SERVICE: U.S. COAST GUARD, 1975 TO 1979

I joined the U.S. Coast Guard in 1975 and remember a boot camp sign that read, "You are embarking on a new life." How true that was as I trained to be a helicopter air crewman. At every turn, opportunities unfolded and I found myself helping others in air-sea rescues.

Stationed in New York, we would fly around Manhattan and respond to search-and-rescue calls for help. When I see current photographs of New York City, I see the World Trade Center Twin Towers

missing. It really hits home and I realize why I served in the Coast Guard. My heart goes out to all 9/11 victims and families.

In rescuing people you realized how sacred a life is, from finding a body in the water to saving entire families and crew. Experiencing both scenarios helped me understand the importance of God and country, to put my life on the line. The Coast Guard, many times, is the last hope for people lost at sea.

I honorably left the Coast Guard in 1979 and enrolled in Parks Air College, St. Louis University, where I earned a Bachelor of Science degree in aircraft maintenance. My Boeing career began in 1982 at McDonnell Douglas. I'm currently an inspector on the F-15 program. At Boeing, I've met veterans of Vietnam, Desert Storm and other theaters. I take my hat off to all veterans. They're all heroes to us.

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