

# Air Force Memories: An Interview with Wayne LeFors and Tom Fryer

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**Wesley Fryer:** [00:00:00] Here we go.

All right. Hello everyone. Today is July the 31st, 2024. And even though it looks like I have the Northern Lights behind me this is Wes Fryer. I'm in Cornelius, North [00:00:15] Carolina. Cause Shelly and I went on a little adventure today, but I have two members of the Air Force Academy class of 1963 with me and why don't I pass the baton to Kansas and then you can pass it to [00:00:30] California, dad.

**Tom Fryer:** Okay, I'm Tom Fryer in Mid America, Manhattan, Kansas, and I'll send it out to the West Coast.

**Wayne LeFors:** Oh, this is Wayne LeFors in Huntington Beach, California, and LeForsready to rock and [00:00:45] roll.

**Wesley Fryer:** So when did you all meet each other? I know that you were good buddies throughout the Academy years, and I was telling the story last night, which maybe we can hear more about of how you, Wayne, convinced dad to [00:01:00] not go home for Christmas your sophomore year and go to Hawaii and have these adventures.

But when do you all remember meeting each other? Because you all were you all both and you weren't both in fifth quarter for you.

**Wayne LeFors:** No, I was in second. I don't know how how we finally came together, but I [00:01:15] think we're, I remember one thing we used to drive up to, to Denver and there was a lady by the name of Ruth that had at that time.

That was our

**Tom Fryer:** senior year, I think.

**Wayne LeFors:** No, I don't think [00:01:30] so. It wasn't, maybe. Anyway, I don't know how, but I know that Tom and I don't know how we became friends, but I know we did travel to Hawaii, and I think we went twice, once with Roger Zeller.

**Tom Fryer:** Yeah, but let's [00:01:45] back up before you're duly here, what's going on?

Let's

**Wesley Fryer:** back up even before that, because I know and for people who don't know, Wayne invite introduced mom and dad, like there's so much, There's so much history here. Tell us a little bit, for each of you, how did you [00:02:00] In a short little bit, how did you end up at the Air Force Academy?

**Wayne LeFors:** We'll let you go.

**Wesley Fryer:** Dad, dad, give your elevator speech your quick little how did you end up at the Air Force Academy?

**Tom Fryer:** My, I graduated high school [00:02:15] in 58 and went to University of Wyoming one year. land grant school, Air Force ROTC, and that planted the seed and then got me interested. I got my appointment and then Wayne and I entered there [00:02:30] in I think June 25th, 26th of 1959.

That's my elevator.

**Wesley Fryer:** And Wayne, you're a little older. How did you go to college before as well? Or how did you end up there?

**Wayne LeFors:** I had some physical. I had my parents couldn't afford to send me to a dentist. [00:02:45] So I had 23 cavities when I first got checked in. They said, I'm sorry, you're not going this year.

And so I worked it down. And the second year was the same thing. I was down. I worked it down to my many more or less years. [00:03:00] Cavities, but I ended up going to a J city for three years. And then finally the third year I got my appointment, but

**Wesley Fryer:** So you were not a preppy and you weren't doing ROTC.

You were just junior

**Wayne LeFors:** college. [00:03:15] I just was fresh off the boat type of guy.

**Wesley Fryer:** And dad was coming from Powell, Wyoming and Laramie. Were you coming from Southern California or did you grow up

**Wayne LeFors:** from came from at that time, seal beach. California. And then I went to, of course [00:03:30] join the class, wonderful golden boys of 63.

And that was, of course, I don't remember where Tom and I hooked it up, but I'd remember we became friends. And of course, the stories about Hawaii and Great time we had [00:03:45] there in our sophomore year going to Hawaii for a vacation. Tom had an aunt there which graciously invited us into her house, or crazily.

And so we spent a wonderful [00:04:00] Vacation there. I don't know how I can't remember even remember how many days but probably

**Tom Fryer:** you got me in trouble with my mother because the year before when we were dualies, we couldn't go home. And then finally we could go home. And instead of doing that, we both went to [00:04:15] Hawaii.

**Wesley Fryer:** And I've heard the dole pineapple plant was given out pineapples. So you all had a few free meals there as I recall

**Tom Fryer:** earlier, because I don't know that much about [00:04:30] Wayne growing up. Did you stay in were you always in Seal Beach or tell us about your parents.

**Wayne LeFors:** Oh, actually my folks moved.

They did. No they moved from basically Long Beach to Seal Beach. And then [00:04:45] just before I went to the academy, they'd bought a house down in again, Seal Beach. That's that were my, that's where my roots were. And then we went, of course to the academy from there. And anyway that's

**Wesley Fryer:** how did you hear about the academy?

Had someone told you about it? Or did you know somebody? [00:05:00]

**Wayne LeFors:** Oh, yes, I wanted to be in the military. I want to fly. I want to fly. And that was my main motivation.

**Tom Fryer:** In high school besides football, did you do

**Wayne LeFors:** any other sports? No, I didn't play football in high school. I did. I played [00:05:15] basketball and baseball and that's when I went to the academy when they convinced me after many late night runs that would be in my best physical interest to go ahead and go run, go out for the football team.

So yeah, that's when I went [00:05:30] out for the football team under Ben Martin. And I don't know, for some reason, of course, I waited. I was a tackle at 215 and I could remember Ben Martin when I first went up to him. He says, what position do you play? And I said, I don't know. I've played, [00:05:45] never played football.

**Tom Fryer:** And then we went out for football all four years.

**Wayne LeFors:** Yes. No I went three years and I was academically, unlike you, Tom, I was academically challenged. And so I really had to, I [00:06:00] said, if I'm going to get through the academy experience, I better get rid of the football, which I did. I quit my fourth year, which

**Tom Fryer:** I was thinking you were going to tell us that you were valedictorian in high school.

**Wayne LeFors:** That was not the [00:06:15] case. That was not the, but you were, you probably were valedictorian. Pardon? I think actually didn't

**Wesley Fryer:** you salutatorian and wasn't

**Wayne LeFors:** Dave

**Wesley Fryer:** Bonner. Yeah. So what position did you end up playing for [00:06:30] the Academy football team?

**Wayne LeFors:** I played tackle. I was the most vicious 215 pound tackle.

It was on the field. So was that a,

**Wesley Fryer:** that was a better deal as a duly then? Did you get to sit tables I guess at lunchtime?

**Wayne LeFors:** [00:06:45] Yeah. The ramps, which were football, dedicated football players and ate very well. And we got rid of all the niceties of protocol of ours are eating at the, in the events.

So you didn't [00:07:00] get

**Wesley Fryer:** harassed with the form. Oh, dash nine, six at ramps,

**Wayne LeFors:** oh, yes. Yeah, we got we didn't get quite through the crap that the normal cadets had to go through. The duallys had to go through. As a dually,

**Tom Fryer:** were you in second squadron also? [00:07:15] Yeah. So you never switched?

**Wayne LeFors:** No, you

**Tom Fryer:** switched. I was in fighting fourth my duly year and then the last three and fifths.

So why did you get to switch dad and Wayne didn't? But see, when we started, there were only [00:07:30] 12 squatters. And then the next year we expanded to 16. So they had so some of us moved But we still stayed in first group and then then then our junior year, they expanded to what was in the 24

**Wayne LeFors:** [00:07:45] squatters.

**Tom Fryer:** So some guys I think ended up in three different squatters, but I just, the last three was in fifth along with Mick Roth and Jim Auburn and a few others.

**Wayne LeFors:** Learn Vic Thacker, right?

**Wesley Fryer:** Yeah,

Vic for [00:08:00] sure. Wayne, were you on wing staff? That senior year

**Wayne LeFors:** Yeah, I was the well, Tom was the interesting story.

I've never asked Tom the question. I don't know. I ran an operation Easter there. I started an operation Easter and I just went [00:08:15] into Vic Ferrari, who was assistant to the common at the time. And I said, I got an idea that bring in some of the underprivileged children from Colorado Springs in the area.

Let the cadets show their appreciation and show them what they have. [00:08:30] So I considered cadets were a bunch of primadonnas. And so I said, it's time we, got down and face the real life of the unfortunate kids. So Vic Ferrari says you have my support. And I said, I think we can fund it by ourselves, blah, blah, [00:08:45] blah, which not really wasn't the case, but I think we asked for a contribution of 2 each from each cadet.

And I couldn't believe the response. We had a tremendous response. And one of the funniest things is we had Burr Rabbit, Burr [00:09:00] Bear, and is our Jewish leader there was Mick Roth, and he ended up playing Burr Rabbit. Funny story that the kids loved his, they wanted to go after his little cottontail, so they chased him all the over the [00:09:15] place with chased bur Rapid.

But it was quite a success. And we had went to Arnold Hall and dropped balloons from the ceiling and the Mitch Hall made cakes and ice cream and it really is quite a success. We ran that. Did you

**Wesley Fryer:** hide eggs on the [00:09:30] terrazzo? Or where was there some egg collection involved? I can't

**Wayne LeFors:** remember. I think we did in the green area.

I can't remember where we hid the eggs. Of course, it wouldn't have been good because we had the air garden pools. So I don't remember how we hid the eggs or what we did, but we had the [00:09:45] cadet riding club coming in. In fact, they're the ones that had to rescue Mickey Roth and from all the kids going after him.

But we had And we had magic shows and one of the H1 things done by cadets, but everybody jumped in there. [00:10:00] And it was really quite a success. And of course, Vic Ferrari was very pleased with what, what had been done. And we use, of course, we used academy buses to get the kids to, to the academy, but that was our, thank God our great, [00:10:15] Vic Ferrari, who supported us on that.

And then I, Tom came up to me. You asked a question about wing staff. Tom said, and clear out of the blue, he said you're being considered for wing training

officer. And I said, [00:10:30] really I am. And I don't know, Tom, I don't know how that came to pass. And I've never asked you the question. Why, how did you find out I was being considered?

Do you remember?

**Tom Fryer:** You're asking me a question I can't answer. So I were [00:10:45] you already on

**Wesley Fryer:** wing staff first dad? Cause you were the operations officer and Mick Roth was the. That

**Tom Fryer:** was the fall and then Wayne was on in the spring with Sam Westbrook, who was our and Wes tell Wayne about your your [00:11:00] relationship with Sam Westbrook.

**Wesley Fryer:** I would not call him Sam, but General Westbrook was our commandant when I was was a freshman. So I got to go to his house during duly dining out. And, I really wasn't eager to interact with him personally. So that was [00:11:15] about it. So I do know one of our classmates, we had the first email system and you could write a wild card with an asterisk.

And so one of our classmates figured out how to email the entire wing and had said something very disparaging about about the commandant. So he did get a [00:11:30] personal, meeting with him, but really dining out was the only time I got to meet him. But he had a very nice place and a lot of good food.

So that was good.

**Wayne LeFors:** Yeah we stayed I stayed with at his house with the five I think five [00:11:45] furnaces, as I believe, and when we had one of our reunions, one of the earlier reunions we stayed there at Sam Westbrook's house, not his house, but it was an add on. I think it was the original Otis house, wasn't it, Tom?

**Tom Fryer:** I think it was, [00:12:00] yeah.

**Wesley Fryer:** The new commandant coming in this summer. Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. The, he is, he's not a flyer, but he's not pleased. And so they're ready to, they're cracking down. So I don't think they're gonna get to have flight suit Fridays. And they're gonna, I asked Rachel if they're gonna march to [00:12:15] breakfast.

So for the record our daughter Rachel is a rising three degree who just finished combat survival on, Monday and water survival. And so anyway, the new comm is coming in with some new rules I said that's that happens a lot. So

**Wayne LeFors:** Every single time and I [00:12:30] can remember when we were Tom and I are there and we were Sam Westbrook Richard Lear myself, and I can't remember.

Oh we're had a sit down with the con with the general strong was the guy who you came in as a [00:12:45] commandant and he was gonna change policy and he felt things were too loose. And we as we could nicely say it, I think, we think you're wrong in what you're doing. And of course it's when we left, he did it anyway

**Wesley Fryer:** General Joe Redden was my [00:13:00] commandant for my sophomore through senior years.

And oh, he had us marching to breakfast. So nobody had marched to breakfast for a long time. And I'm sure we were all a lot more disciplined after, a few years of marching to breakfast. So anyway things [00:13:15] change. So

**Tom Fryer:** you guys speaking of let's jump to this article in the Carl Springs paper about the change in the honor code, because I don't know if Wayne's aware of that.

**Wesley Fryer:** It didn't sound like it's a change to any [00:13:30] of the language, but it's just going to be it's going to, what happened is there's so much, there's a big reduction in the number of reported, toleration and fractions. And so the [00:13:45] concern is that they're not reporting. And so for freshmen and sophomores, there's going to be think journaling and then mentoring.

And if somebody doesn't report, they are wanting them to journal about it and be able to have a mentor [00:14:00] and try to have them, I guess grow into the toleration aspect. So it's still the same for juniors and seniors.

**Tom Fryer:** A phase in then, is that a way? Yeah,

**Wesley Fryer:** which I mean, I had understood it used to, it was that way in terms of you didn't get kicked out right away as a freshman.

If there was a violation, you might have [00:14:15] classmates that walked 100 tours, and did things like that. But yeah, it sounded like it's trying, trying to have



a more graduated approach to it. So as a junior and a senior, it's the same enforcement and expectation. And the expectation is that there's [00:14:30] no toleration, but they're also introducing it the first day they arrived.

So I think when we did, and maybe even with Rachel's class the, there was a ceremony at the honor wall where they took that oath. Later in basic training, maybe even the beginning of the academic year, but now it's [00:14:45] right at the very beginning of basic training. Again,

**Wayne LeFors:** things are changing. Yeah, toleration has always been the big elephant in the room as far as you are.

And the

**Wesley Fryer:** Air Force Academy is, I think, unique in that, isn't it? Cause I don't know if [00:15:00] Annapolis and West Point are quite the same.

**Wayne LeFors:** It's very loose. I think, as I remember, the Navy was very loose.

**Wesley Fryer:** Yeah.

**Wayne LeFors:** Yeah.

**Wesley Fryer:** All right. So tell me about your senior year with the Cuban missile crisis. Dad, you were on Wing [00:15:15] staff when that happened, what are your recollections?

And Blaine, what do you remember that time going in the tunnels? And was that a memorable? Time for everybody or

**Wayne LeFors:** Yeah, we all knew was coming. It was crunch time as far as [00:15:30] our the u. s government kennedy etc So it came down to and we were i'll never forget. I was playing soccer And we're all ready to go and they said they're going to expedite Our process into the military and we were, [00:15:45] basically go full active duty and I can remember I was playing on the soccer field there and finally the announcement came over and said it had been settled so You know to our great relief so

**Wesley Fryer:** because they were going to make you [00:16:00] active duty to oh, yeah, but I think I never heard that.

Wow.

**Tom Fryer:** Yeah.

**Wesley Fryer:** Wow. Dad. What do you remember about that time?

**Tom Fryer:** The tunnels, and so the, the threat obviously was very real. And then with the [00:16:15] missile threat, NORAD was right south of us. So if they started firing missiles and were short of NORAD, the Air Force Academy could get hit.

Or if they were there were the Atlas missiles up around Cheyenne at Francis C [00:16:30] Warren, and if they were long, they could, they could hit us too. So we considered ourselves a prime target. I, going down to the tunnels, cause prior to that, they were off limits except for Bill Wecker and Tom [00:16:45] Petty, I think, who explored anything that was off limits.

They were, Wecker was a classmate of ours and Petty was a couple years ahead. Anyway.

**Wesley Fryer:** So did you just have the ability to go down there as wing staff? It wasn't like you had a [00:17:00] drill, like a tornado drill or something.

**Tom Fryer:** I think we had like a real life tornado drill and we all went. Do you remember that, Wayne?

**Wayne LeFors:** Yeah I can remember that Denny King, we had some nice ladies that we had [00:17:15] set up dates with. And I remember Denny King who set the whole thing up and said know how to get out of here and go meet our ladies, which we did. And I'm going, Oh, good God. And there we were in the tunnels, which I knew existed, but it never been down there.

But that's Denny [00:17:30] King's. The foray and leading us astray. Yeah.

**Wesley Fryer:** Okay. That reminds me of spirit missions. So we did have spirit missions when I was there and, they had bolted down the aircraft so they couldn't be moved because there was lots of stories about [00:17:45] And then the Flatiron is that the hill, just Northwest of the Academy.

We used to go take sheets up there in the middle of the night. And you'd put your squadron number. Oh yeah. Did you all, and when spirit missions are now pretty much banned, like they, they can't go to the Flatiron and they're, they've

really cracked down on that. [00:18:00] So what do you all remember about spirit missions?

Did you have to go on them as freshmen? And what. What do you remember about that?

**Wayne LeFors:** I can remember that big thing was to take sheets and go up there and put your second squadron and that for me. You were in fourth [00:18:15] at that time, Tom? Absolutely, yeah. Yeah, so that is fighting for now that West you should go back to fighting for as a duty you avoided the fourth squadron area [00:18:30] like crazy because they had some upperclassmen that let's say.

Flex their voice and their muscles and whatever, then you would be doing pushups forever, just going through the four squadron area, but it was a tough [00:18:45] squadron and by the time survived it, that's a real credit.

**Wesley Fryer:** Did you have aircraft on the Torazzo, like static display aircraft at that time?

And did they ever get, did they ever get moved or any spirit missions like that?

**Wayne LeFors:** They did. Who was [00:19:00] it Tom? Yes, one of them got moved. I think, I can't remember, but I know that the APs caught the guys when they were just about, But I thought they brought it up to [00:19:15] the Toronto area. I'm not quite sure.

Do you remember who that was? As I

**Tom Fryer:** recall, we had what F one hundreds and a four, maybe. Yeah, I think so. Yeah.

**Wesley Fryer:** What tell me about airmanship [00:19:30] summer programs after basic you all did third Lieutenant, which has been operations Air Force what memories do y'all have of And summer programs, and I guess you could, did you work BCT or what kinds of leadership did you do in the summers?

**Wayne LeFors:** Yeah as [00:19:45] second squad, two degrees, we of course, led the, the new class, and this is the new class, and I can remember that was that was a great experience of leadership. And then of course we were there as a second classmen. And of course the summer [00:20:00] programs. We had the Z program where we went out to visit the Army at Fort Benning.

And then we went with the Navy down in San Diego. I went with the Navy down in San Diego. It was a great experience of seeing some of the other, the the forces. And we went [00:20:15] to, at that time, Hamilton Air Force Base, which is air defense every that was an air defense base. But the summer programs were just great.

And of course, the crowning glory is the second, in our second class year or summer between transitioning to [00:20:30] our senior year, we had the European field trip, the Southern, South American field trip, and those were just, they, of course, they stopped them later on because of the cost and hauling a bunch of crazy cadets around to The various places.

I happen to be on the [00:20:45] Europe, Northern European trip, which included England, Paris, Norway, Berlin just a fabulous experience.

**Wesley Fryer:** Yeah, that's when you took pictures of the Brandenburg Gate. I think right with before. [00:21:00] Yeah yeah, that was before the wall. Because you have pictures of it before the wall went up.

And then Shelly had lived there when it came down in 9, 90 or 89. Yeah. And then Alexander was [00:21:15] there and he's in what was East Berlin when he was an exchange student. So that's touch points. I'll

**Wayne LeFors:** tell you that was the, we were at part of our field trip. We went into East Berlin.

And as you say, without, it didn't have the wall at that time. [00:21:30] And we were trying, of course, I spoke Russian and I was trying to speak to the Russian guards and they would roll. No, that was absolutely for Bolton didn't speak to the Russian guards. They wouldn't speak to you, but it

**Tom Fryer:** was [00:21:45] interesting.

**Wayne LeFors:** I could be pushing by two more two hours.

Still it.

**Wesley Fryer:** The NSA has just started to listen in on our call. So did you take Russian all your [00:22:00] time at the academy? And did someone tell you to do that? Or do you sign up for that way?

**Wayne LeFors:** It's one of the craziest things I did. And Russian was tough. And I think I went into the final with a B somehow, and I [00:22:15] ended up the, my final, I'll never forget the final was they'd give you a Russian story etc.

Then they'd ask you in Russian. About the story and I got lost after about one minute of the story. I got lost. And it [00:22:30] was, and then I basically hung on to a C minus at the final grade. But yeah. And Tom, you took, I didn't realize you took Russian.

**Wesley Fryer:** Did you take Russian or did you take German?[00:22:45]

**Tom Fryer:** No, I took, as I recall, see I'd taken Spanish in high school and I think that was our third class year where it was required for, and I think they only had four languages. But if you I was an engineering [00:23:00] major and I couldn't take Spanish, so the choice was either German or Russian. And like Wayne, I took Russian and I always say Russian took me because I really struggled with that too.

**Wesley Fryer:** Now, you guys didn't get to declare majors, weren't you? [00:23:15] Just all engineering majors by default.

**Tom Fryer:** Yeah, they didn't have majors while we were there.

**Wayne LeFors:** I don't know. I, because I'd had prior college, they gave me credit for quite a few courses. I can remember that [00:23:30] I had a minor in international relations, a minor in law, a minor in one of the subject law, economics.

I had minors in those. Which I later on, that's where I got my master's in economics. But you could you [00:23:45] could declare a major and they, of course, they expanded it much more after, after we left.

**Wesley Fryer:** Did you all have common GR periods? I don't, I'm guessing you did where all the tests would be before breakfast or did you just [00:24:00] have tests during class and.

Honor code. Don't talk about it.

**Wayne LeFors:** I think, yeah, go ahead. Dad,

**Tom Fryer:** go ahead. As I recall, there were just, once you got to finals week they would [00:24:15] block off what one morning for one GR and one, and then the afternoon for the GRs were three hour, three hour exams, as I recall. So

**Wesley Fryer:** the summer program is besides basic training.

What else? And then those [00:24:30] trips. Dad, didn't you? Did everyone go to South America too, or did you go to either Europe or South America? There,

**Tom Fryer:** as I recall, there, there were five choices. There was only one group went to South America, and then there were two groups to Northern [00:24:45] Europe and two groups to Southern Europe.

Those were the five, I think.

**Wesley Fryer:** Were you all on the same trip to Northern Europe?

**Wayne LeFors:** I don't know. We went to one thing. We went to Cranwell. Do you remember that, Tom? We went to Cranwell? And

**Tom Fryer:** I didn't [00:25:00] go there. I was on with Mick Roth, but you know when you mentioned location I definitely remember the Berlin and going to East Berlin and all that

**Wayne LeFors:** Yeah, we were in fact is we went to Cranwell [00:25:15] and had a wonderful time the English guys at Cranwell, the English cadets, showed us a fabulous time.

We were able to go up in small airplanes and fly them around, ran go karts along the runway, and they really showed us the [00:25:30] time. Of course their meals were quite structured. You sat down, And they had a band playing up above and a little alcove above all the cadets. And interestingly enough the waiters would grab our napkins [00:25:45] right away.

And I said, Oh yes. The other thing too, you could take a drink in. To the banquet, but you could not get up by protocol. You couldn't get up. Get up during the banquet So what guys would [00:26:00] do first of all, they you take and smuggle in a couple of beers And then if you had to go to the bathroom or something You had to go down underneath the table and crawl underneath the tables to go out at the end.

It was Quite structured and all the waiters would [00:26:15] grab our grabbed our napkins right away. And I wondered why Because if the band playing above did not play when the saints come marching in, they got lambasted with wet napkins. Off napkin. So [00:26:30] that was part of the trip to England.

**Wesley Fryer:** So was this like a, kind of a dining out sort of experience? And was it the Air Force Academy in England or just an air base?

**Wayne LeFors:** Equivalent to the Air Force Academy, Cranwell. [00:26:45] Yeah.

**Wesley Fryer:** Cranwell. Is that still in operation or still open?

**Wayne LeFors:** Oh, yes.

**Wesley Fryer:** Oh, yes. Okay.

**Wayne LeFors:** And of course we would march, we would also march with the Brits in their, their weird way of marching with their arm swing and that sort of thing.

But as I said, that, that [00:27:00] was quite an experience. And then we also played rugby in one of the anti roofs there. And I remember my roommate one time, John Gavin and of course we were in formal dress at that time. And John Gavin got his shirt [00:27:15] ripped. And the rug during a rugby game and they had a couch at either end.

And that was, those were the goals and unbelievable. Of course we were a little bit heftier, let's say. And so we, of course, won the rugby match in the ante [00:27:30] room.

**Tom Fryer:** Elaborate a little bit on, on John Gavin how he made Air Force history and football.

**Wayne LeFors:** Oh yeah. He was he kicked a 55 yard field goal at that, which at that time [00:27:45] was the longest field goal in college history.

And Ben Martin said, all the wind's right, you got the foot for it. So John and when, after John passed, I took his family down in the innards of the athletic department. And there they had [00:28:00] bronzed John shoe that he kicked the field goal with. Yeah.

**Wesley Fryer:** Wow. So you got to go on some flights then, were there any other times that you had an incentive ride at any, bases here [00:28:15] in the CONUS in the U.

S. or other overseas incentive rides? As cadets before you went to pilot training.

**Wayne LeFors:** Yeah we did actually, we went part of our ZI trip. We went to George air force base and they [00:28:30] took us up in an F 100 and we broke the sound barrier. Oh, wow. That was quite a highlight, absolutely.

**Wesley Fryer:** Huh? Did you get an incentive ride dad as a cadet?

Anywhere.

**Tom Fryer:** Yeah, I did. But instead of George, it was [00:28:45] at Davis Mon and they had B 40 sevens and but rather than a B 47 we weren't and also tankers and I remember flying in a tanker refueling a B 47 over grand Canyon. I took [00:29:00] some, pictures from where the boom operator looks out.

But no, no F 100 rides.

**Wesley Fryer:** Wow. So do you all remember dining outs at the academy and were there any grog bowls?

**Wayne LeFors:** Any which [00:29:15] did

**Wesley Fryer:** you have grog bowls? It's like a punch bowl. That's that has the grog that you know, if you mess up or something, you have to go drink from it. I don't know that. I think we had one of those when I was a freshman.

I don't know how many cadet dining outs [00:29:30] that was that. That wasn't something you guys remember.

**Wayne LeFors:** Things got decadent during your age.

**Wesley Fryer:** They did. Did you ever have people get nuked, upperclassmen? Where the people that were training and really harsh, the freshmen would save a bunch of old food [00:29:45] in their room and take them down to the quad at night?



This is that's been banned as well. They don't do that anymore. Nope. That didn't happen either.

**Wayne LeFors:** That was another age.

**Wesley Fryer:** What so what are their memories from Academy days from Fairchild from [00:30:00] academics or Of course, you all had President Kennedy at your graduations. Did you all have memorable flybys?

Is that like football games, you'd have flybys? Was that was common?

**Tom Fryer:** Yeah. I remember graduation parades, the day before [00:30:15] graduation. And just in those days, it seemed like we had Just one of everything. In a lot of cases, if they were trainers or fighters, it'd be a flight of flight of F 4s.

I remember one time I think three or four B 52s came by and [00:30:30] and trailed too. So there were a lot of flybys.

**Wayne LeFors:** Especially during June week, of course we, they would practice before and then we'd see them come over. But yeah, it was of course we just love Tom and I just love those, the [00:30:45] parades guys, they became nobody looked forward to a parade.

Actually guys would pass out and they'd have the, of course, John Gavin was one of the ones that passed out. Oh, [00:31:00] yeah. Still about three cadets, as he staggered off and fainted. Yeah.

**Wesley Fryer:** Now, was there an airmanship program? Did you do a preliminary flight program? Soaring? I don't think the jump program was there, but was there any of [00:31:15] that at that time?

**Wayne LeFors:** No.

**Wesley Fryer:** So did people go to Fort Benning to jump out? Yeah. Can you airborne with the army or did you? What other kinds of programs in the summer because you, did you do, you didn't do some, did you do survival or any kind of like land [00:31:30] nav, orienteering, things like that after basic?

**Wayne LeFors:** I was on their survival committee.

So I had to go through survival training again to be instructed to be an instructor. And [00:31:45] then

**Wesley Fryer:** At the academy.

**Wayne LeFors:** Yeah, at the academy. And then I went twice more with duals who you know okay. Yeah. So it was interesting time and we learned a lot and that

**Wesley Fryer:** was in the Pike National Forest that you did [00:32:00] that.

And we'd come down,

**Wayne LeFors:** You say I call it triangle mountain there because you call it iron, the

**Wesley Fryer:** flat iron. Yeah.

**Wayne LeFors:** So we would come back. Come down beautiful valley up there above the above that. [00:32:15] But the

**Tom Fryer:** Rampart range, wasn't it?

**Wayne LeFors:** Yeah. And we had a, we also had, remember Tom, what was the fair, what was the recreation area back there?

Fairish

**Wesley Fryer:** or Parish? Parish. Parish. Memorial.

**Tom Fryer:** Ferish [00:32:30] Memorial. Yeah. That was there back to Airmanship in the summertime. Both of the I re, I don't know if it was all of our class, but I remember as a second classman and a first classman being involved in the [00:32:45] NBCT. I was always on first detail.

But when you're trying to new nuclear,

**Wesley Fryer:** biological chemical stuff, when you get like.

**Tom Fryer:** It's teaching about how to march and running out to Cathedral Rock.

**Wesley Fryer:** So basic training. Did you all have to get [00:33:00] tear gassed during BASIC?

**Wayne LeFors:** What were

**Wesley Fryer:** the tents like? I think they had a pretty, pretty easy tent situation for BASIC this last time. Were you all in sort of large [00:33:15] canvas? Army Tan? They didn't

**Tom Fryer:** have Jackson Valley then either,

**Wesley Fryer:** oh, they didn't, huh? But you all never trained at Lowry. You were always at the hill, at the academy.

Yeah. We were the

**Wayne LeFors:** first, we were the first class to go through for the four years at the [00:33:30] academy.

**Wesley Fryer:** You were the largest class that came in because you were about once or twice the size of the previous.

**Wayne LeFors:** No, we were, I want to say that they were 500, Tom, we were 750.

**Tom Fryer:** Yeah, we came in with 750, [00:33:45] graduated 500, but when we were going to Mitchell,

The class, three classes ahead of us were all smaller classes and at the, the tables were 10 person and most times it would be five of our classmates and then five [00:34:00] upper class.

**Wesley Fryer:** What do you remember about Mitchell Hall dinners? Did you have spirit dinners? Were there Mitch's mountains, which is like the ice cream something? And did you ever have steak? What do you remember about?

**Wayne LeFors:** First of all, during our duly, duly time, I can remember that [00:34:15] boy, it was set up straight on the first two inches of your chair and stalings strictly at your plate.

Five to seven

**Wesley Fryer:** shoes. Oh, you did you have to eat this where

**Wayne LeFors:** Oh my I don't remember so much to square, [00:34:30] but I do remember and you have to spout knowledge that code of conduct and they didn't ask you to acknowledge about airplanes, engines, and that sort of thing, but it was a time that you really had to shovel it down every chance you got, because you're [00:34:45] going to be spouting knowledge or taking a lot of crap from the upperclassmen there.

It was, contrails. Front to back.

**Wesley Fryer:** Were there spirit missions or not spirit missions, spirit dinners before games? [00:35:00] I

**Wayne LeFors:** don't remember. I know that they would have rallies over up against where you'd walk up the ramp to A hall, they would have spirit things. Everybody come out and [00:35:15] cheer, that sort of thing.

And that's the only thing I remember, but that was on the cheering section and the ones directing it were above us there. And we were all down below.

**Wesley Fryer:** The Cy John Hall didn't exist. You guys were at Vandenberg only, right? No, they

**Wayne LeFors:** did not.

**Wesley Fryer:** No. [00:35:30] And the chapel basically got finished your senior year.

**Wayne LeFors:** Yes.

**Wesley Fryer:** Old Leakey got finished. Yeah, hopefully it'll, we don't know if it'll be done before.

**Tom Fryer:** I remember as duallys Sunday mornings, the [00:35:45] chapel was mandatory and we didn't go individually as duallys, we had to march to chapel and chapel was in our hall.

**Wesley Fryer:** And that was every Sunday?

Every Sunday. Did you get to pick Catholic, Protestant, [00:36:00] Jewish, or how did that work?

**Tom Fryer:** Mickey used to leave Friday nights, he got to go downtown to Jewish, but the rest of us had Sunday morning to march to Arnold Hall. Wow!

**Wesley Fryer:** Mandatory. And see the funny thing is, [00:36:15] sometimes people today think that's gonna, that would fix everything with the kids.

We just made the kids go to, go to chapel and I'm like, I don't think that necessarily.

**Tom Fryer:** Let's talk about senior year and the automobile [00:36:30] that you had. Which?

**Wayne LeFors:** The automobile, your car. Oh see, everybody else was buying Corvettes. Me being on a limited budget, I got a, for several purposes, I got a 54 Chevy [00:36:45] station wagon. And we had to go to an Operation Third Lieutenant, which mine was down in Barksdale, Louisiana.

And I found a couple of guys who of course we got paid mileage. I don't remember Tom. You probably don't mileage or whatever [00:37:00] to get down to these various bases. So I told three other guys that said, look, I got a deal for you. You. You can save money and I can save money. I can drop you off at Carswell.

I don't remember. I think it was Carswell, a couple of other bases in Texas. [00:37:15] And I'll get you down there and I'll pick you up on the way back. So that's what I did. I'm basically paid for my 54 Chevy station wagon and everybody else. I said I didn't have any money. And I used to park my 54 Chevy [00:37:30] station wagon on a hill there in the parking lot.

Because the battery would go off and go dead. So the only way I could get going is get it pushed, get downhill. And if I'd ever gotten caught going some of those, through some of those pine trees, I would have been dead [00:37:45] in any event, that was my, I don't remember what you have, Tom, what you have, I had a Corvair, mine, so it's four on the floor.

Oh boy. Wow. Tom was dating Ruth. I was [00:38:00] dating, what was her name? Lori, and Lori and Tom, Lori and Ruth were roommates. And so we would go up to Colorado or go out to Denver and they would, of course they

knew we were broke, but they would [00:38:15] wine us and dine us. And it was all out of their pocket, but It was an interesting time.

**Wesley Fryer:** Weren't there dances where they brought coeds into the academy from, was it Colorado College, or? Yeah. Wasn't there something, [00:38:30] talk about that, what happened with that?

**Wayne LeFors:** Of course, it was a, yeah, sometimes it worked out well, sometimes it didn't. Of course, these parents are pushing their daughters out to the academy to meet their futures. And of course, [00:38:45] as I said, a few worked out and that sort of thing. And then there was a time when there was a big snowstorm.

And so they ended up putting the gals in the dormitory there and our in our living quarters. And of course they had to station [00:39:00] APs all around to make sure that some of the hormones didn't get enraged type of thing. So it was an interesting time.

**Wesley Fryer:** This

**Wayne LeFors:** is McComas.

**Wesley Fryer:** What do you remember about your ring dance?

So ring [00:39:15] dance was still into the two degree year. Do you all have memories of that? Who your dates were and what that experience was?

**Wayne LeFors:** Yeah, I do. In fact, I remember I had Judy, I had no actually long term [00:39:30] interest in, but I remember her parents had long term interest, a beautiful, wonderful Italian family, cooked wonderfully and but the future wasn't there and she ended up marrying a young man two years after [00:39:45] we left, class of 65.

**Wesley Fryer:** How about you, dad? Do you remember your ring dance?

**Tom Fryer:** Yeah, I remember. I think the I think my date was somebody that I had met when we'd gone to Hawaii that summer and she she flew out. I can't, I remember [00:40:00] seeing a picture. I can't, I don't remember her name and I don't remember many other details.

Did you all ever march any tours? Yeah.

**Wesley Fryer:** What? Do you remember what you got in trouble for?

**Wayne LeFors:** No, I [00:40:15] don't. I didn't. What'd they call it? I got restricted.

**Wesley Fryer:** Confinements is what we called it. I got confined because

**Wayne LeFors:** I had, was driving the car that I shouldn't, didn't, my 5470 station wagon, [00:40:30] and I parked it down in the athletic area, and somebody else Third degree, or no, actually first Classman was serving confinements and he had a pair of spa glasses and he saw me park my car down there and he turned me in and [00:40:45] I ended up confined confinements.

But then general, who was the general that came in the soup came in I wanna say Harmon, not Harmon. Anyway he came in, of course, wiped all the confinements and [00:41:00] tours off the reg, off the register.

**Wesley Fryer:** I forgot about that. When we would win a football game, sometimes they'd say, it was basically liberty.

I don't remember what they called it, it was no tours, no, no confinements. In fact, I think, didn't they wipe them out sometimes for people? There would be, I don't know if the [00:41:15] president did that or something, but anyway, it was like jubilee. You could have somebody just wipe out your,

**Tom Fryer:** At graduation, a lot of times the speaker would would say no, no more class three [00:41:30] penalties or punishments or whatever.

**Wesley Fryer:** That was interesting. That still happens. In our

**Wayne LeFors:** case, it got wiped out by General Warren, who is a new super came in, and he's I think it was Warren, but in any event.

**Wesley Fryer:** Okay, I want to ask you a little bit about your [00:41:45] academy experiences post, because I know dad went back with the math department.

I know you were a liaison officer later, Wayne, but we got to get some details about the Hawaii trip. I know you took a hop. Was it out of Travis? And I know you ate at the Dole Pineapple Place. [00:42:00] And I think you had baby oil laying on the beach in Waikiki. That's about all I know.

**Wayne LeFors:** Iodine and baby oil. And these gals, we, Fort DeRussy was a fabulous place.

And it had only one of the, only lawns going right up to the water. [00:42:15] And so the gals naturally, Habitat toward that through our hopefully our clutches and we met, you met these gals and then we say let's go to dole pineapple and have our meal and they would bring big purses along and fill [00:42:30] up the purses with all this pineapple.

I can remember one time at Fort DeRussy they had a Sunday buffet, and we teamed up with some West Pointers. We sat down there, and I remember the waitress coming up [00:42:45] and saying, are you guys ever going to leave? You've been here for three hours. We're just gorging ourselves because we had nothing, our stomachs had shrunk up because we had meat in there.

**Wesley Fryer:** So that was on Waikiki Beach, [00:43:00] then that they had. Oh, yeah,

**Wayne LeFors:** beautiful location at that time. That time, I think it was cost us 2 a night to stay at Fort DeRussy, and the only thing is you got carried off by the cockroaches. If they had a lot of [00:43:15] cockroaches, but plywood walls. It was just it was really bad primitive.

**Tom Fryer:** Very amazing.

**Wesley Fryer:** What do you remember?

**Tom Fryer:** Wayne, I still have memories of the bar serving Skip and Go Naked. Do you remember that drink? [00:43:30]

**Wesley Fryer:** What is in a Skip and Go Naked?

**Tom Fryer:** It was served in a tall Tom Collins glass. And then there would be about a couple inches at the top and they'd ask you what your favorite beer was and you'd top it [00:43:45] off.

And when we went back that one time when we had a reunion, I went up to the bar and of course they were all new. They thought I was an idiot for asking for a skip and going, what

**Wesley Fryer:** was in it besides the topped off beer?



**Tom Fryer:** I don't know if it was [00:44:00] like a Tom Collins or something like that. It's like I just went yesterday down in Aggieville and I had one of their Mary's down there.

The Mary is a, it's beer mixed with a pineapple juice. [00:44:15]

**Wesley Fryer:** That's, I think, yeah, those are localized drinks. Okay so Wayne, you didn't go back to the academy as an instructor. You but you were you were a liaison officer in retirement, is that right?

**Wayne LeFors:** Yes, I [00:44:30] they said they're gonna kick me out of the Standby reserves, whatever it was going to call unless I hooked up.

So I hooked up with the liaison officer group and I was my business I was selling Fashion jewelry just stores all [00:44:45] over southern california So that tucked in well with the liaison officer because I would Go to schools And then I'd call on customers and go to schools and it worked out extremely well for me [00:45:00] and I Anyway, I moved up through the ranks and became the commander of Orange County.

And then finally I got me on the advisory board to the academy, which was a wonderful experience because [00:45:15] you could actually change some policies. So I was on the advisory board for five years.

**Wesley Fryer:** Is that like the board of visitors?

**Wayne LeFors:** No, it was to advise. the admissions office, basically. And so we advised the admissions office [00:45:30] and we started to think of one of our projects was the Talman award, which was a longevity medal for those liaison officers who had spent 10, 20, in one case, 30 years in the LO program.

So I moved in up through the [00:45:45] ranks that way. And to get promoted out of that was, it's category H was amazing thing. I was, I didn't get promoted, but my people that worked for me got me promoted. It was.

**Wesley Fryer:** And so you, as a colonel then is what you [00:46:00] retired on full 06 or?

Yes. Yes. Yeah.

**Wayne LeFors:** Again, I made it because of my people. Supported me in ways I didn't believe. Yeah.

**Wesley Fryer:** Dad, what do you remember about going back to teach math at the [00:46:15] academy? I have a couple things I've heard, but I'm not going to put words in your mouth. So what do you remember? It

**Tom Fryer:** was just, it was, to me, it was a great time because there was a lot of classmates coming in and out, and I, it was one [00:46:30] of the probably better tours we had.

The math department that I was in was the largest at the time. departments. Wayne I'll share a quick story in terms of where class rank came in. The on the sixth floor of the academic buildings, [00:46:45] the the offices there, they were three deep. So the senior ranking officers got to be by the window and the junior officer got by the, by

**Wayne LeFors:** The aisle or whatever

**Tom Fryer:** the middle was, it was a junior officer.

But anyway, after my when I [00:47:00] got there, Jerry Teese was already there and he beat me by about a year. Then the next year, one window office came open and it was up to and by then I think we were just senior captains. But since [00:47:15] I'd graduated ahead of Jerry Teese, I got the window office and he always let me know he was tipped off by Nancy.

**Wesley Fryer:** What do you remember about slide rules, dad?

Slide, slide rules. [00:47:30]

**Tom Fryer:** Yeah, we were we were, of course, I'm talking to see I was there at 70, 71 through 74. And so we were still issuing slide rules. And then, as I was getting ready to leave [00:47:45] the the The first classmen taking engineering courses Hewlett Packard had a big plant there, Cora Springs.

And so those calculators were first coming out, but you had to buy those by yourself. And this advisory committee was considering, are we [00:48:00] going to go to slide rules or we're going to start using calculators? And after much debate, they said, we'll get a stick with post slide rule, which they did, or I think only for a year or two.

And then They finally got rid of him.

**Wayne LeFors:** That just [00:48:15] to just Tom, Tom is really one of the smartest guys. He ran circles around some of us guys who, I, my order of rank when I graduated was three, four, 41, as I [00:48:30] remember, and Tom was in the top 25 of and just he was up there with the stars.

And he would even talk to us low life lives occasionally.

**Wesley Fryer:** Okay. We've gone about an hour. We've got to [00:48:45] have you recount the story, Wayne, you're responsible for mom and dad meeting. So I want you to each kind of share some recollections of I know it was, I think it was Abilene, Texas. It was a very red, Lake [00:49:00] water skiing was involved in an emergency room.

That's about all I know. So fill in the blanks.

**Wayne LeFors:** I had a house on a very muddy lake. I can't remember lake fort family and across the lake was we called nick the greek and nick the greek would [00:49:15] have great parties and so We would trundle our little boats over there and we all hang up and that's where I met angie and Anyway so I found out that Tomas was coming into town, [00:49:30] and I knew that Angie was free.

And so I called Angie up and said, Hey I got this great friend coming into town. Would you two you think you're open for it? And she said, Oh, sure. So I, as I [00:49:45] had to stand alert. At the end of a runway for a while, for usually, a week at a time, or maybe it's four days, I don't remember, but Tom came into town, and I handed him the keys to the boat, the keys to the house, and say, I'll see you in about four or five days [00:50:00] anyway I Came back off alert and I said Tom, how'd it go?

And he says, it went pretty well. We got along very well. And then I was alert a different time and I get this call and he usually didn't get called out of their alert facility. [00:50:15] And Tom says he says we haven't, I haven't, we haven't an announcement to make. And I couldn't, I had the phone.

Not the foggy is what he's talking about. We have an important announcement to make and then he puts Angie on the phone and says we're getting married [00:50:30] and I'm going, no, I, they had dated on the side. I never knew it, but they had dated during the interim, the time he left, he flew. I think you've, did you fly an F4 into Dias and he was, he [00:50:45] flew his F4 in there.

And of course, who can walk away from it? fighter pilot with a white scarf around his neck and and he was, she was all, I knew she was enamored, but I hadn't during the interim when they know, of course he had it [00:51:00] launching the boat. Done something and pierced his foot and had, she had to, he had to be taken to the air force hospital there.

And of course, that's where they, I guess they had a bonding. There is, he was getting taped up and fixed up and [00:51:15] then we'll wallop and then they got married. I just had to remember one thing I remember about the wedding as they're taking off from the car. They had fixed up his car. They had taken Angie, I think he had a Pontiac.[00:51:30]

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**Wesley Fryer:** gold Pontiac. Was that Flash Pontiac?

**Wayne LeFors:** Was that flash? Yeah. And they had taken it and put syrup on it and corn flakes. It was. [00:51:45] God awful looking. Oh my god. It's terrible. But that's what I remember about the wedding. Yeah

**Wesley Fryer:** All right. So dad, what do you recall about that first meeting in dallas?

**Tom Fryer:** Wait, I need to make a few corrections. First of all, we first met you know, I [00:52:00] was station at Willie in Arizona and then T. D. Wyden at Randall. So it was just a long weekend. I think I came up on a Friday and left on a Sunday. This giving me the keys to the house and the boat.

I don't remember that part of it but anyway, [00:52:15] that was our first meeting. And then and then wait,

**Wesley Fryer:** wasn't it in the emergency room? Didn't you get a stick through your foot? And she met you at the emergency room?

**Tom Fryer:** That Saturday we were water skiing and we were, as we were bringing the boat is when I stepped on that [00:52:30] stick.

And Wayne said, we need to get you a tetanus shot. So he went out to Dias and then he had arranged these blind dates. And that's when I met Angie, as I came hobbled out of the emergency room having been shot in the rear end.

[00:52:45]

**Wesley Fryer:** Okay. And then what other parts would you fill in?

as far as memories of that.

**Tom Fryer:** And then a couple weeks later hemisphere was going on down at San Antonio and her folks came down with that. And so she came down with him. So then I had a, [00:53:00] another couple of dates with her. Down in San Antonio and then and then on the way back to I had my car.

So when I drove back to Arizona, I stopped by Abilene for another couple of nights. And then Wayne was taught when Wayne got the call about her [00:53:15] being engaged was she was visiting me out in in Tempe. And it was Fourth of July weekend, I think, when we made that announcement.

And of course, we got married August 9th. So it was quick, Wayne.

**Wesley Fryer:** Okay, I want to ask Wayne about [00:53:30] Margaret a little bit and how they met. But first, I'll share a memory that connects to both Wayne and Margaret. I'm sure you remember, Wayne, that it was probably You know, either it was a spring break of maybe my senior year when my friend Monty Anderson [00:53:45] and Will Roth and I drove out in my Jeep to Huntington Beach.

Monty actually was, he's, he was on the AC 130 that went into Mogadishu. He's a U 2 pilot and an astronaut. He's got 4, 000 [00:54:00] hours or something and just all these aircraft and he's back at the academy now as a civilian. Doing physics and he might, he's teaching the quantum physics course that Rachel might take this next year.

Anyway, that's a little connection, but that was a great trip to visit you. [00:54:15] Will, I want to see he's in Charleston. He retired as a Colonel and his wife as well, Colonel of the Air Force. And they're both retired in Charleston. And I hopefully we'll get to see him soon. Cause he's we're about, yeah.

Three or four hours away from Charleston. [00:54:30] How did you meet Margaret? And tell us a little bit about that backstory. Was that as a result of being a pilot for Northwest and flying into Bermuda?

**Wayne LeFors:** Let's go back to Monty and Will. You guys all came there, [00:54:45] stayed at our house. I have never cooked so many ham it was, I can remember it was pancakes for breakfast and I had never cooked that many pancakes in my life.

And then I'd fix potato salad and I'd fixed a barbecued [00:55:00] chicken. And I thought I had this huge bowl of potato salad and also the sleeping arrangement. I can't remember if we had a gal that came in and we had pull out in the couches pulled out into sleeping areas. We had [00:55:15] wall to wall people sleeping in our house.

I'll never forget that. But see how I met Margaret. I was on my way to one of my two month TDYs to Southeast Asia, and I went down, [00:55:30] I said I'm going to have a big fling, went down to Acapulco and Margaret was there and I saw, kept seeing her and I kept trying to hook up, but she always had guys around her.

It's finally on the last flight out. We both, I delayed and by [00:55:45] departure, and then we take Braniff airlines up to San Antonio. We both had a layover there. And so I said, would you like to go out to dinner? So we went out to dinner and had a wonderful time. And then I went off and did my two month stint in [00:56:00] Southeast Asia and Margaret went back to fly out of New York.

But then I came back and we really had clicked. At that time I really was involved with somebody else but somebody else went away and Margaret and I started and I went with training with [00:56:15] Northwest just in June of 69 ish. And I would, because I would had available flights going free to New York.

I go to New York every weekend and that's how we that was a, and I actually knew [00:56:30] her only about 30 days. 30 days was our, before we got married.

**Wesley Fryer:** Oh my gosh. You were even faster than mom and dad.

**Tom Fryer:** But again you were death or airline, you were with Northwest and she was with TWA, right?

**Wayne LeFors:** Exactly. Exactly.

**Tom Fryer:** But

**Wesley Fryer:** you were you outta the Air Force or you, [00:56:45] the TDY was then at Air Force when you met her? No,

**Wayne LeFors:** after I got outta the Air Force in June of 69. And just after I'd gotten back from this Southeast Asia thing, and I had already put in my

paperwork. I had a hard time getting out because I know I was a [00:57:00] regular officer, but I found a way I can get up and I had a education commitment too.

So anyway did get out and got out, went with Northwest and June 16th, 1969. And then that was facilitated by my dating [00:57:15] Margaret in New York.

**Tom Fryer:** What year did you get married? Seventy. Okay. So yours was pretty quick, too, then.

**Wesley Fryer:** Yeah, it was. Quick work. You guys, you knew a good thing when you saw it, so [00:57:30] you moved quickly.

Okay I think we better wrap up closing thoughts

**Tom Fryer:** or questions.

**Wesley Fryer:** Okay. I've

**Tom Fryer:** got a follow up. With your two daughters and you're both flying, you didn't have much home life there for several years, did you? How

**Wayne LeFors:** did it happen? [00:57:45] No, we didn't. We've had great babysitters and Margaret and I would try to fit our particular schedules.

One time, I remember one month I saw her three days and as I remember one time I was TWA parking [00:58:00] lot was just off one of the taxiways. So I can remember, I saw Margaret parking your car. I waved her as they were taxiing by and didn't see her for another three weeks. Yeah.

**Tom Fryer:** And your daughters are Monique and then what's the other daughter?

Whoa. [00:58:15] Monique and

**Wayne LeFors:** Nicole.

**Tom Fryer:** Okay, and then how many grandkids?

**Wayne LeFors:** We got four.

**Tom Fryer:** We have

**Wayne LeFors:** Two by a girl and a grandson and a granddaughter by Monique and then we have two grandsons with Nikki. [00:58:30] Okay. Okay.

**Wesley Fryer:** All right. So looking back, what is some wisdom that you each have now that you did not have when you were cadets?

Say that again. What's some wisdom that you [00:58:45] have now that you did not have when you were cadets?

**Wayne LeFors:** How much longer do you have?

**Wesley Fryer:** Five minutes.

**Wayne LeFors:** I could tell you that the experience, I just briefly, the [00:59:00] people, friends, classmates I met at the academy were been friends for life. High school friends come and go and mostly go, but the experiences and the, in the lessons, let's say lessons I learned being at the [00:59:15] Academy and being with a fab, fabulous group of people it matures you and leadership and so many other ways, but it carried me your, your time management again, things that, that you learn, you carry throughout through life.[00:59:30]

I think that's one of the, one of the biggest things. And of course the knowledge that we had, we gained from the academy, not just academic, on the field trips and the whole total experience I can't pinpoint any one thing [00:59:45] that thing that carried me through to the rest of my life, other than discipline and patriotism and that sort of thing.

**Tom Fryer:** How about you, Deb? And I would echo what Wayne's saying. The older I get, the more I, I value family and [01:00:00] friends and lifetime friends, not only college, but several high schoolers as well. But lot of, sometimes people will have me reflect back. What I was saying that if it wasn't for the Air Force, I [01:00:15] wouldn't be sitting here in Manhattan, Kansas, because that was my last assignment at K State with Air Force ROTC.

And by then, Angie was tired of moving. And so we just, that was, came here in 81, been here ever since. So [01:00:30] life has been good. The good Lord has watched over us.



**Wesley Fryer:** It's a blessing to get to have this conversation with you all and I wish you all the best and I'm going to predict Rachel will be looking at this and probably a few other folks as well.

So your friendship [01:00:45] and all the connections that you've made and your families have made our families have made and friends over the years are really a true blessing for which we are all very thankful.

**Wayne LeFors:** I'm just on a sideline. I may be calling on you to see if we can [01:01:00] get Rachel, my grandson Nikki's grandson to get maybe we're bringing them out for the football game, San Jose State football game.

And I'm going to try, he's, he plays soccer, so I may try to get a soccer coach or a soccer coach. call a soccer player to lead them around the [01:01:15] academy, but if not,

**Wesley Fryer:** maybe I'll be

**Wayne LeFors:** Calling on you to see if we can hook him up. That will

**Wesley Fryer:** be great. I will send you her cell number so you all can make contact.

All right. Thanks for putting this

**Wayne LeFors:** together, Wes. Great effort.

**Wesley Fryer:** Absolutely. And

**Tom Fryer:** [01:01:30] Wayne, in probably less than 24 hours, just get on the web, type in YouTube and your name, and there you'll be. I will

**Wesley Fryer:** put it on tonight, and I will email you all the link, too. So [01:01:45] you can click on it for me. Thanks, Wes. Nice job.

All right. We will see you guys later. Bye bye.

**Tom Fryer:** Thank you.