

Donor Profile: Glenn Strebe

I grew up an Air Force brat, and my family moved frequently. By the age of eight, I had already lived in five different places, before we finally settled near Minot, North Dakota.

My father, who had enlisted at the age of 17, did not have a lot as a child, and my mother and her family were survivors of the atomic bombing of Nagasaki. We learned growing up that it doesn't take a lot of money to live and be happy.

When I was 17, I received my appointment to the Air Force Academy and graduated in 1987. I was then on casual status as a BCT Associate AOC, before transferring to Honor and Ethics. My first assignment was at Peterson Air Force Base as an auditor in the Air Force Audit Agency. I came back to the Academy to work in the Comptroller's office as a Cost Analysis Officer and then as the Director of Cost Analysis. While in the Air Force, I received my MBA from Colorado State University. I separated from the Air Force in 1993 to become the Chief Financial Officer at Air Academy Federal Credit Union. Two years later, I became the Chief Operating Officer, and in 1998, I became the CEO. At that time, Air Academy had approximately \$140 million in assets. Currently, AFFCU has \$424 million in assets, and serves 42,000 members worldwide. In the credit union industry, I have served on various boards and committees at the local, state, regional, and national level. I have also been active on boards and committees in my community. In November 2011, I was elected to the Academy School District 20 Board of Education. My wife, Terri, and I have been married since 1988. We have two children, Joshua and Kamiko — 20 and 18, respectively. Both are in college. I enjoy pretty much anything outdoors, and quite often, you will find me training for triathlons.

It seems not a day goes by that I don't reference a learning "opportunity" from my time at the Academy. We all have numerous experiences from the Academy that have shaped and molded us to be who we are today. While we didn't recognize them when we were cadets, time filters wisdom, and we finally see it later in life.

Giving to the Center for Character and Leadership Development and being a part of the Sabre Society is one way to perpetuate this incredible institution and to help shape our future. As I see it, kids are 25 percent of our population and 100 percent of our future. I believe I have a duty and responsibility to positively influence the future. When I was young, I talked about being successful (as most grads do). As I have matured, I now talk about being significant. To me, success may not be significant, but significance is success.

