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Keith Self at Trophy Point, West Point
photo provided by KeithSelf.com

Iraqi Freedom Vet Vies for County Judge Spot

By Emily Foshee

A 25-year army veteran and Iraqi Freedom vet, Keith Self has lived in Collin County since 2000 when he retired from active military duty. He and his wife of 30 years, Tracy, live in McKinney and attend Stonebriar Community Church in Frisco. Keith serves as the facilitator for Galilee Fellowship at the church and Tracy serves in the children's special needs area. When not serving the community, Keith enjoys camping, hiking, travel, and reading.

"Early American history is a favorite subject of mine. I greatly admire the wisdom and work of our Founding Fathers," Keith explains.

Keith was recalled to active duty in 2002 - 2003 for service in Afghanistan and Qatar, serving in the Plans and Policy Directorate, US Central Command, on General Tommy Franks' staff and assisted in planning the invasion of Iraq. He also served for 12 years in joint assignments, integrating the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines. During that time he served on the national Security Council Interagency Working Group in the White House

complex, representing the Joint Staff.

Keith is a fifth generation Texan, a Ranger, Green Beret, Master Parachutist infantry officer, and West Point graduate.

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"I was planning to attend Texas A&M to become a large animal veterinarian," says Keith. "My brother attended West Point two years ahead of me, and when he came home he told stories of discipline, athletics, and rigorous academic and physical standards, all of which appealed

to me. West Point was the only college I applied to – thankfully they accepted me! I exchanged one type of 'vet' for another," he joked.

After graduating from West Point, Self served five years in the military, a requirement of all West Point grads.

"At the end of those five years," he explained, "I had already served as a Green Beret, and was hooked on serving in the military. It has been an honor to serve my country throughout the years, and serving in so many areas of the military was the ideal career for me."

Keith called Fort Worth home as a boy, and moved to Amarillo with his family as a teenager, graduating from Tascosa High School. When visiting his grandmother's home in the Texas panhandle, Keith learned to ride and rope horses, drive a tractor, hunt, and swim in the horse tanks. His grandmother put him to work on her farm, asking him to pick cotton by hand!

As he prepares for another potential round of public service, Keith looks back on some of the military leaders he worked with that achieved their goals and more during their time of duty. "Major General Bob Wiegand, whom I worked for in Egypt, is the epitome of a warrior and a gentleman," said Keith. "He had the tough duty of negotiating U.S. interests almost daily with the Egyptian government. I respected General Wiegand immensely, and will use him as a role model in how I approach the duties of County Judge, if elected."

Keith will also employ the familiar adage, "the future is now" as the foundation of his service as County Judge.

"Through my military service and business experience, I've learned the importance of protecting the freedoms we as Americans enjoy every day. Our elected officials are crucial to the healthy growth of Collin County, and I hope to make a difference if elected," Keith concluded.

Emily Foshee is a freelance writer living in Frisco.