

Colonel Frank Gannon Wickersham III, US Marine Corps (Retired)

Colonel Frank G. Wickersham III was born 14 April 1943 in Daytona Beach, Florida. He attended Georgia Military Academy from 1958 to 1961 and graduated with a Diploma in Engineering. Subsequently Colonel Wickersham graduated from the University of Florida with a Bachelor of Arts in Education and Social Sciences in 1965. He earned his Master of Arts in International Affairs in 1987 from Catholic University of America.

Colonel Wickersham entered the Marine Corps with the 40th Officers Candidate Class on 16 March 1966 as an Aviation Officer Candidate. He was commissioned a Marine Second Lieutenant in May 1966 and was ordered to NAS Pensacola, FL for pilot training. He received his Naval Aviator designation number on 30 August 1966 and was awarded his wings on 15 June 1967.

Serving in the United States Marine Corps from 1966-1993, Colonel Wickersham held a variety of positions to include: Fleet Marine Officer (FMO) /Special Staff Officer to Commander Naval Forces Central Command and Commander U.S. 7th Fleet (Gulf War/Japan); Assistant Chief of Staff, G-1, Human Resources, 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing; Director, Joint Strategic Branch, Plans, Policies and Operations, Headquarters Marine Corps; Special Advisor/Trusted Agent to Commandant of the Marine Corps on International Treaties and Arms Control; Marine Corps SIOP/RISOP Officer; Deputy Commander, Air Combat Element, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing (Somalia); Commanding Officer, Marine Observation Squadron Two; Commanding Officer, Marine Headquarters and Maintenance Squadron 39; Commander, Marine Corps Air Facility, Camp Pendleton; Brigade Air Officer, 4th Marine Expeditionary Brigade (NATO/Cuba); Advisor, Marine Corps Foreign Military Sales Project Officer (Morocco), Fleet Test Pilot/Maintenance Officer, AH-1J Cobra Combat Test and Evaluation Team (Patuxent River/Vietnam); Marine Corps Officer Selection Officer, Jacksonville, FL; Squadron Operations Officer, Squadron Strike/Flight Leader (Vietnam), Aircraft Maintenance Officer, Instructor Pilot and Post-maintenance Test Pilot.

His personal military awards and commendations include the Legion of Merit (2 awards), the Meritorious Service Medal, the Distinguished Flying Cross (4 awards), the Air Medal – Single Mission Award (4 awards), the Air Medal – Strike Flight Award (numeral 85), the Navy Commendation Medal with Combat “V,” the Navy Achievement Medal with Combat “V,” the Purple Heart; and Marine Corps Combat Action Ribbon. Colonel Wickersham is a designated Naval Aviator (fixed

wing and helicopters) and a Marine Parachutist (60 jumps). He has 6000 hours total flight time (military and civilian), to include 5200 military flight hours of which 2100 are combat flight hours.

As a veterans issues advocate, Mr. Wickersham has served variously as: Chair, Virginia's Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations; Chair, Virginia's Veterans Service Foundation, President, Virginia Council of Chapters of the Military Officers Association; National Legislative Officer, Military Order of the Purple Heart; Commander, Department of Virginia, Military Order of the Purple Heart; President, Northern Virginia Chapter, Military Officers Association; Commander, Chapter 363 Northern Virginia, Military Order of the Purple Heart; Chair, Business And Networking Group, Military Officers Association; Chair, The Professional Group, Institute of Public Policy, George Mason University; and Legislative Representative for the Marine Corps Reserve Association to The Military Coalition. Additionally, Colonel Wickersham served as 3d Vice President, Virginia Council of Chapters, Military Officers Association and a second appointment as Chair, Virginia Joint Leadership Council.