

Glenn Schwartz bio interviewed by David Bledsoe



Glenn was born in Oak Park, IL on June 9, 1947. He grew up on the North side of Chicago close to Wrigley Field which might explain why that he's been a lifelong diehard Cubs fan. He graduated from Proviso West High School in Hillside, IL, a western suburb of Chicago.

On high school summer breaks, Glenn worked for National Van Lines doing logistical work. It was his responsibility to track the location of all the company's trucks. "With GPS, that job might be just a bit more manageable now."

Attending General Motors Institute in Flint Michigan from 1965 – 1970, Glenn received his Bachelors Degree in Industrial Engineering. GMI was a cooperative school alternating six weeks school sessions with six weeks work sessions with various GM sponsors. His was Pontiac Motor Division. Due to

its logical and scientific certainty, mathematics was always Glenn's favorite subject in school.

After graduating from GMI, Glenn spent the next 34 years working for General Motors. During his GM career, he accepted assignments in Michigan, as well as Mexico City, Mexico, Boston, MA, Philadelphia, PA, Chicago, IL and finally Spring Hill, TN. He specialized in service parts operations, materials management, purchasing and operations. With the cultural and work attitude differences, Glenn says that his most challenging and most interesting assignment was his 3 years in Mexico. Glenn served as the project leader responsible for the transition of GM deMexico Service Parts Operations distribution center's move to Toluca from Mexico City. The move was only about 40 miles away but they had to hire and train a completely new workforce to work in a new environment with new procedures. Glenn has tremendous respect for the Mexican people explaining how he envies their strong connection/commitment to families and social consciousness. Although he loved his GM career, Glenn was offered early retirement in 2004 just one year after transferring to Spring Hill's Saturn plant. He says that he couldn't find a pen fast enough and that he really enjoys retirement.

Some of the hobbies Glenn has enjoyed are sailing and construction projects. His step father got him started in home construction teaching him most of the fundamentals. He held a contractor's license in Michigan building 3 homes for himself. Glenn enjoys playing golf as often as possible, spectator sports, the symphony and theater. He has enjoyed piloting private aircraft and enjoys driving his '96 Corvette.

Glenn found tremendous satisfaction serving as a Cub Scout Pack Master for about 3 years. He has enjoyed volunteering with Junior Achievement, a nonprofit organization that brings the real world to high school students through hands-on business and economics curriculum delivered by trained classroom volunteers.

While on vacation in 1971, Glenn met his wonderful wife, Kathy at a ski lodge. They hit it off right away and began dating. Kathy was helping Glenn wash his car one day when he suddenly realized it doesn't get much better than this and that she was the one. They share many similar interests including sailing on Lake Michigan. Glenn and Kathy were married in 1972 and lived for 21 years in Southeast Michigan. Then they moved in accordance with his career assignments winding up in Franklin, TN in 2003. It didn't take long and they decided this was the place to stay. Their only son Dave and his family live in Brighton, MI and have two fantastic granddaughters to spoil. This explains why Glenn seems to be out of town quite a bit. They are also fortunate to own a condo in Glen Arbor, MI overlooking the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore.

Although Glenn never served in the military, he is a strong supporter of all military branches and is a member the Navy League, an advocacy/support group for all of the sea services. Glenn believes that "peace is seldom attained without strength."

Glenn and Kathy began attending Franklin First Presbyterian Church in 2004 and joined membership in 2008. Glenn says "We especially enjoy the "Wednesday Night Live" evening dinner & bible studies." Through his church's sponsorship of a Habitat build on Good Neighbor in 2005, Glenn attended the dedication and decided he wanted to get more involved. A fellow church member, Steve Lewis invited him to attend a board meeting. Steve also introduced him to Gregg Elliott who quickly put Glenn's talents and desire to serve to immediate use. Glenn's philosophy is that "God helps those who help themselves". He likes seeing Habitat partner families work on their own home as well as others. Glenn supports the "green initiatives" that Habitat has adopted and wants to be involved in future rehab project planning. His favorite Habitat tasks would be installing the floor systems and wall layout. Glenn says "**Yes, we're here to build a house but we're also here for fellowship and to have fun while we're doing it.**" He says "A home dedication is an emotional recognition of everyone's accomplishment and loves seeing the homeowner realize their dream of home ownership finally come true."