

Sul Ross Group (SRG) Board of Directors (BoD) 2024-25

April 5, 2024



President, Jerome Rektorik '65

Jerome is from Corpus Christi and graduated from A&M in May 1965 with a degree in Economics and a commission in the Army. While at A&M, he was a member of Company E-1, the Ross Volunteers, and served as the 1st Brigade Commander. In April, 1966, he was assigned to the 173rd Airborne Brigade (Separate) in the Republic of Vietnam, where he served for 12 months as a reconnaissance platoon leader. He returned to Vietnam in 1969 to serve with the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), spending over 7 months as an infantry company commander. He resigned from the Army in 1976 and entered the private sector. In 1979, he accepted a position with a Saudi Arabian company, spending 7 years leading their manufacturing operations. In 1986, he returned to the states joining Rock-Tenn Company, a paperboard and packaging company, serving as Vice-President with profit and loss responsibilities for multiple plants. In 2002, he retired to College Station, starting a new career with the A&M Foundation, helping to raise many millions of dollars for the University. He served on the College Station Planning and Zoning Commission for 5 years before being elected to the College Station City Council in 2016, serving for 3 years. He is currently on the Corps of Cadets Association Board of Directors. Jerome is married to Diane Rektorik, and they have one daughter Rebecca Fleming, and seven grandchildren. This will be his third year on the Sul Ross Group Board of Directors.



1st Vice President, Henry Goodwin '66

Henry Goodwin '66 was born in Pasadena Texas and graduated from Pasadena High School in 1962. He entered Texas A&M in fall of 1962 and was assigned to Company B-1 in the Corps of Cadets. As a junior and senior, he was on the 1st Brigade Staff and served as the intermural manager. He was commissioned into the US Army upon graduation with a degree in Business Management. His assignments included Officer Basic at Ft. Lee Virginia; the 2nd Infantry Division, Korea to Company A of the 2nd S&T Battalion - first as a platoon leader and later as a company commander (Army Commendation Medal). He was transferred to Fort Sam Houston upon return to the US. He then entered the commercial sector, first with Electronic Data Systems, Inc. from June 1969 to May 1972. He then joined Merrill Lynch in Houston, Texas in May 1972 and is still serving as a Senior VP Financial Advisor (Life-Time Achievement Award). He has been active in a myriad of service activities including; President Southwest Houston A&M Club, raising sponsorships to fund Radio Broadcasts of A&M Basketball games in Gulf Coast Area, member and Chairman of Corps of Cadets Development Council, member of the President's Board of Visitors to the Corps of Cadets (Founding Member), funding two Sul Ross Corps Scholarships and an athletic scholarship, an inductee into the TAMU Corps Hall of Honor, is a Century Club Member, a SCONA 100 Member, and is a founding member of the Corps of Cadets Association (CCA). He is married to Linda Lou Ewart, and they have enjoyed 55 years of marriage. They have two sons - Bryan Class of '98, D-2, and Michael, Class of '03 Squadron 3. They are proud to have three future Aggie grandchildren. Henry and Linda live in College Station. This will be his second year on the board.



2nd Vice President, Neal Patton '67

Neal was born in Harlingen and graduated from Texas A&M as a Distinguished Military Graduate with a BA in economics and a commission in the Air Force. He later attended Arizona State University earning an MBA. At A&M he was a member of the Ross Volunteer Company, Squadron 12, until it was disbanded, and the Air Division staff and was the 3rd Wing commander as a senior. In a thirty-year air force career, he commanded a fighter squadron, a reconnaissance group, a provisional F-4 wing, two air base groups, and a logistics group. He also served as the Vice Commander of two Numbered Air Forces. He has over 5000 military flying hours in the F-4, F-5, and the O-1 with 397 combat sorties in Viet Nam and Desert Storm. After retiring from the Air Force in 1997, Neal joined Raytheon Aerospace, later Vertex Aerospace, serving as general manager of Air Force and International Programs. He developed and led programs providing aircraft, aircraft maintenance and logistic support to the US Army and Air Force and the air forces of Israel, Egypt, Greece, Morocco, Kuwait, Iraq, and Afghanistan. He is married to the former Cheryl Fitzgerald of Avon CN. They have two children and two grandchildren. He and Cheryl live in Boerne, TX. This will be his first year on the board.



Secretary-Treasurer, Hale Burr '65

Hale grew up in Vidor and graduated from Texas A&M with a BA in Economics. Later he received a Master's Degree in Political Science/International Relations from the University of Arkansas. While attending A&M, Hale was Deputy Corps Commander, Senior Class President, a Ross Volunteer and a Distinguished AFROTC Graduate. He was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Air Force, attended pilot training, and was selected to be a fighter pilot. Hale has over 3,600 flying hours in the F-4, F-15, and F-16. He flew 525 combat missions in the F-4 and O-2 during 2 Vietnam War tours. In a 31-year Air Force career, Hale commanded a F-15 squadron, a F-15 wing, a F-16 wing and a numbered Air Force. He served as a Deputy Director of Operations in the Joint Chiefs of Staff during the Invasion of Panama and Operation Desert Storm. His last tour was in the Pentagon as Deputy Secretary of the Air Force for International Affairs. After retiring as a Major General in 1997, Hale was a self-employed defense industry consultant until 2010. He and Barbara live in Plano. Hale is in his third year on the Sul Ross Group (SRG) Board of Directors.



Director, Tom Harrison '65

Tom was raised in Baytown, graduating from Texas A&M with a BBA in Accounting. He was commissioned a 2nd Lt. in the Air Force and attended U.T. Law School. While attending Texas A&M, Tom was the Second Wing Commander, Ross Volunteer, member of SCONA, Cadet Court President, and Distinguished AFROTC Graduate. While attending Law School, Tom was President of the Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity. He graduated from UT with a Juris Doctorate, was admitted to the Texas Bar, and went on active duty as a J.A.G. Tom received an M.B.A. from the University of Utah while on active duty.

He then returned to Houston practicing law and operating a business until 1987. In 1987 he moved to Austin and went to work in State government, serving as Director of Elections for the Secretary of State, the Executive Director of the Texas Ethics Commission, and finally General Counsel and Deputy Executive Director of the Texas County and District Retirement System. He also was a Commissioner on the Texas Ethics Commission for 12 years, serving as Chairman for four years. Tom is semi-retired and lives in Austin with his wife Jody and their 13-year-old Corgi, Toby. This will be his first year on the board.



Director, Kevin Andrews '66

Kevin grew up in El Paso, Texas. Attended Texas AMC and joined the Texas Aggie Corps of Cadets. After graduating in 1966 with a degree in Business Administration, he was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the US Army 1966 and assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division. In the Republic of Vietnam, 1968 – 1969, he served with the MACV Airborne Advisory Team 162, embedded with the South Vietnamese Airborne Infantry Division. His decorations include the Bronze Star, Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry (Bronze Award). He resigned as a Captain to attend graduate

school in 1970 at Washington University, St. Louis, MO, earning a Master's in Health Care Administration in 1972. He then spent a forty-year career in Healthcare Executive Management serving as president and CEO of individual hospitals, Regional VP over multiple hospitals, and then as a Division President and corporate officer over multiple hospitals in 6 states. He has been a Class Agent 8 years and is a member of the Corps of Cadets Association, Century Club, the 12th Man Foundation and the Denton A&M Club. He and his wife Dorothy live in Denton. They have three children and four grandchildren. Granddaughter Kasey Class '23, a Senior in the F'TAB, and XO of the Artillery Band 2022-2023. This will be his second year on the board.



Director, Rick Graham '66

Rick J. W. Graham '66 graduated from Paschal High School in Ft. Worth, TX. He then entered Texas A&M in the fall of 1962 and was assigned to the Infantry (White) Band in the Texas Aggie Band. He graduated with a degree in Marketing. As a junior and senior he was First Sergeant and Commanding Officer. He was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps (USMC). His assignments included Quantico, VA; Pensacola, FL; Ft. Sill, OK; Camp Pendleton, CA; and Da Nang, Vietnam. His medals include, among others, our nation's highest-flying medal, the Distinguished Flying Cross. He was President

of the North Texas Distinguished Flying Cross Society and sits on its National Board of Directors. He was honorably discharged from USMC with the rank of Captain in June of 1970. He immediately started law

school at Texas Tech University and graduated with a J.D. in May of 1973. He has practiced law in Dallas, Texas for over 50 years. His service to Texas A&M University includes the Chancellor's Century Council, President of the Texas Aggie Bar Association, Captain of the Champions Council, Corps Development Council, Texas Aggie Band Association, Dallas A&M Club, Muster Speaker, the Legacy Society, Eppright Distinguished Donor and elected into the Corps of Cadets Hall of Honor. He has participated in numerous community service activities including the Salesmanship Club of Dallas, the East Dallas Exchange Club, as President, Dallas Summer Musicals as President and Chairman of the Board, President of the Tom Hughes Foundation, and extensive Youth Leadership involvement. He married the former Donna S. Duke in 1968. They have two sons, Kyle W. M. Graham '97 and Kevin M.W. Graham '02. They have seven grandchildren: Mason Graham '22, Garrett Graham '25, Reed Graham '27 and hopefully four other future Ags.



Director, Doug Ferrata '67

Doug lived on Sul Ross Street in Houston - destined to be an Aggie. He came to A&M and the Corps because of his brother, Col John B. Ferrata Jr. '57. After graduating with a BS ('68) and MS ('69) in Aerospace Engineering, he was commissioned and assigned to Vandenberg as a Satellite Launch Guidance Officer. In 1971, he applied for pilot training and received his wings. He was a C-141 aircraft commander and a T-37 instructor pilot and flight commander. In 1977, he became a staff officer in Military Airlift Command headquarters and developed a system to track aircrew hours and currency. He then moved to XO in Headquarters USAF and led a joint services program to procure secure unit microcomputers. Afterward, he went to J5 in the Organization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He returned to flying as a C-21 pilot and Operations Officer. Then, he became the Deputy Director for Program Management at the Air Force Space Technology Center. After retirement, he developed systems for TD Bank, Sandia National Laboratories, Arnold Engineering Development Center, Lockheed Martin, the Nevada Test Site, Entergy, Dell, and the DOD Hypersonic Propulsion Program. While in Albuquerque, he was President of the A&M Club for 15 years. In 2023, he accepted a DOD Cryptologic Systems Modernization Program position. Doug is a Coreena's Bridal Boutique partner with College Station and Georgetown locations. He married Elena in 1968, and they have two sons, Doug Jr. '99 and Nick '03, both in Squadron 17. They have three grandchildren, '31, '34 and '37.



Director, Mickey Batsell '67,

Mickey was first elected Class Agent at his five-year Reunion and has been serving since. He was a member of Squadron 11 and the first and only fish drill team to march with unsheathed bayonets. He was commissioned into the USAF, graduated with a degree in Marketing and married Nancy two days after graduation. As a 1st Lt. he was selected to be Aide de Camp for the Commanding General of the USAF Special Operations Forces. While in that role he participated in a mission to rescue American POW's being held at Son Tay prison camp in N. Vietnam. They had been moved and were not in the camp; however, the mission was a major turning point in the war. He then served as a briefing officer for SECDEF, Melvin Laird. In that role he toured Europe briefing NATO and Allied commanders on sensor systems applications. His final active-duty assignment was as Comptroller for a Tactical Control Group. After a little over five years' active duty, he joined the

USAF Reserves for the balance of his 29 years of service. He held the positions of Deputy Commander of Resources for a fighter unit and Director of Transportation for 10th AF and retired as a Lt. Colonel. He is an experienced insurance and financial services professional with almost fifty years of experience. He has been an active member of six national financial organizations and the Chairman or President of several of them. The Batsell's have four children, eleven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren, with twelve Aggies in the family. He is a Muster speaker for A&M Clubs and was a founding member and first President of the Coppel A & M Club.



Past President, George Nelson '64

George Nelson '64 was born in Texas and has resided in Texas most of his life. He graduated high school in Alice in 1960, attended AMC Junction Adjunct, was a B-1 Corps of Cadets member, was a Distinguished Military Student, was a Distinguished Military Graduate, graduated with a Finance Degree in 1964 and was commissioned in the U.S. Army. He received active-duty orders in 1965 and served as Commanding Officer, Company F, Special Troops, Fifth U.S. Army. He is designated a Disabled American Veteran, U.S. Army. He began a career in banking in 1968 in Houston, served as president of two banks and retired in Bryan after forty-one years as a banker. Throughout his professional life, he served in various volunteer senior leadership positions, with the longest tenured ones including CHI St. Joseph Hospital, Brazos Valley Rehabilitation Center and other health care organizations, Bryan Business Council, Salvation Army, youth organizations, municipal government entities, religious entities, USA and Texas historical organizations, national defense committees, pilot and aviation entities, a country club, and others. He has received commendations including BCS Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year 2006, two Bryan Courageous Citizen Awards and others. Additional volunteer positions involving TAMU include 12th Man Foundation Board, Friends of the Sterling C. Evans Library Board Chair and The Association of Former Students as an Aggie Club President, Student Loan Fund Trustee, Class of '64 Class Agent and Sul Ross Group Board President. In his professional life, he has been fortunate to work with remarkably effective others providing selfless service. George and Yvonne have lived in Bryan for forty-three years and have been blessed with constant involvement in Aggieland. This will be the fourth year for George on the Sul Ross Board of Directors.