

**CLASSMATE PROFILES**  
*Getting to know Classmates all over again!*  
**So what have you been doing for the past 50 years?**



*My Five Favorite Pictures in the Past 50 Years*

## LESTER CHARLES TORREY

While in Grammar School at St. Luke-Lutheran in Chicago, I spent a lot of time across the alley from the school with my Uncle Ray building model airplanes. This started my want to be a United States Air Force Fighter Pilot!!

Keeping this in mind following graduation from William Howard Taft High School in May of 1959-I entered the University Of Illinois College at Navy Pier in Chicago to be an Aeronautical Engineer/Pilot! I applied for the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs! I entered the U.S.A.F. in January, 1960. I took all of the tests for the Academy at my soon to be station at Chanute Air Force Base in Rantoul, Illinois. While waiting for the results, they put me to work in the Missile Silos at the base. This became a very demanding position! It occurred during the Cuban Missile Crisis! A few things happened because of this! I got Diabetes-Type 1; I was rejected from the Air Force Academy; and finally, I was retired from the U.S.A.F. with only 4 months of service!

After this, I found out that they had fired all of the aeronautical engineers at the California based companies! So....I then went to work for the Illinois Bell Telephone Company in Downtown Chicago in June of 1962.

While employed at IBT Co. I decided to change careers and entered the Illinois Institute Of Technology-Electrical Engineering College. Wow was this a deal-I spent many hours going from work down to the "night school" at IIT (35<sup>th</sup> Street and State Street).

While going through all of this, I met a beautiful Italian girl named Lucia! After a 4 year engagement, we married on October 9, 1965! During the next 9 years we had 5 children. In order: 1-Denise, 2-Maria, 3- Vincent, 4-Annmarie and 5-Denamarie. I finally graduated from IIT with a BSEE in June of 1973. During that same year; after all of my hard work at Illinois Bell, I was promoted to an Outside Plant Engineer! I moved all around the state getting experience. Then in July of 1980-I was promoted to an Outside Plant Engineering Staff Engineer. I reviewed all of my experience and finally took the tests to become a Registered Professional Engineer in the State of Illinois.

This became a very tough time! My love Lucia passed away from Cancer and my father Les Sr. passed away from a heart attack one month later! Somehow the kids and I got through it. Following all of this-with my Mother-In-Law's help-I returned to school to get my first Masters' Degree in Computer System Design from Roosevelt University (MSIS) after night school from September, 1981 through June, 1983. Illinois Bell co-operated by being transferred to the Arlington Heights office. Following this Illinois Bell Telephone Company became part of the New AMERITECH Regional Company in 1984 (thanks to Judge Green's infinite decision on The Bell System).

After the change to AMERITECH; I was asked to do a special project. To write up the new AMERITECH-Regional Outside Plant Engineering Design Handbook. This project closed out my career at this organization. I Retired from AMERITECH on 12/31/1999. After a few small jobs in the interim-being the "Work-A-Holic" that I was; I went to work for the now infamous MIC, Inc. in July, 2002. I worked here as a Staff Engineer in charge of 23 international companies design engineering interfaces with our company in New York City, Tampa, Orlando, Houston, Dallas, San Luis Obispo, Los Angeles, San Francisco to name a few. I retired from MCI, Inc. in January, 2003.

During all of this-my family grew. Denise married Dave; Vincent married Laurel; Maria married Joel and Annmarie married Alex. I now have 2 grandsons and 4 granddaughters'- Samantha, Cody, Kacie, Skylar, Colin and Abby. Right now Annmarie is pregnant with grandchild 7! Ouch-I still have 1 more daughter to marry!

After all of this, my interests grew to: Boy Scout Leader, Sports-Swimming; Model Cars & Airplanes; Lions Club; Church-Commentator, Usher and Choir and Telephone Pioneer-Life Member Club membership.

I will enjoy seeing and talking with lots of you, My Classmates at the 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion, if not before!  
GO-TAFT-GO.....