

Vanity Plates

Virginia leads the nation in the number of vanity plates on the road – over a million. This trend carries on here at Patriots Colony, with many folks using their initials, their colleges, their service affiliation, etc. to identify themselves. Two retired Air Force residents have decided to take it a step farther. Jim Steinmiller and Harry Vreeland, both former fighter pilots, wanted to make sure that we knew about their history, so they invested in the Virginia vanity plate program with the results you see below.

Jim spent 31 years in the Air Force, flying the F-86 and the F-100. He obtained his “FTRJOC” vanity plate in the '90's and brought it with him when he and Joan moved here from northern Virginia about four years ago. Harry served for 20 years, with time in the F-86, F-84, and F-4. He and Sandy moved here from North Carolina last fall. When he needed to purchase Virginia plates, he was able to get his “F4JOCK” plate.

You may wonder why fighter pilots do these things. Perhaps the following story, compliments of Mac Armstrong, will help. A little boy told his mother, “Mom, when I grow up, I wanna be a fighter pilot.” His mother smiled and tenderly replied, “Son, you can't do both”.

Because Virginia requires license plates on the front and rear of all vehicles, you will have no trouble spotting these two fighter jocks around community. But beware, there are more of them – they just don't have those vanity plates...yet.

Written by --*Dave Lester*

