



Colonel Gregory G. Rath USMC (RET)

Greg Rath is resolute in his commitment to the conservative principles that have guided him throughout his life and throughout his years of service to his country. At the core of those principles lies a firm belief in limited government that inspires trust, and demands accountability. Greg is a passionate leader and defender of national security, economic growth, and upholding rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution.

Greg was born (9/12/1953) and reared in Phoenix, Arizona. He is the fifth of eight children born to Viola and John Rath. He and his wife have instilled a love and duty of country in their three children like his parents did to their children. Greg attended Bourgade Catholic High School in Phoenix where he learned the value of a good foundational education, a value that continues in him to this day.

Greg went on to Arizona State University where he earned his Bachelor Degree in Business. He later earned a Master Degree from the National Defense University in Washington, D.C. Greg has always recognized that education and learning are lifelong pursuits. Putting his beliefs into action, he enrolled at CSUF and earned another Bachelor Degree in History and Political Science in 2013 and looks to pursue a Doctorate degree. Greg is a staunch supporter of quality educational opportunities for all, from kindergarten through post-graduate education. He recognizes that the strength of our young people is based from the excellence of their educational opportunities.

Greg is a long time homeowner and resident of Mission Viejo. He moved to Orange County in 1978 as a young First Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps. During the 30 years that he served as a Marine officer and fighter pilot, he became a decorated combat veteran of Desert Storm and Southern Watch in Iraq; and Restore Hope in Somalia and went on to command several aircraft units post war, including Commanding Officer of Marine Aircraft Group 46 at the Marine Corps Air Station Miramar in San Diego. At the time, it was the largest composite air group in the Marine Corps, with over 2,000 personnel and 70 aircraft. During the tragedies of 9/11, Greg was part of the military air support leadership responsible for protecting southern California, to defend against potential further attacks against our homeland.

In October 2004, Greg retired from the Marines at the rank of Colonel. His experience in government includes serving three years in Washington, D.C. As a Lieutenant Colonel, Greg was assigned by the Defense Department to serve under the President of the United States as the Assistant Chief of Staff for The White House Military Office. He would work hand-in-hand with the Military Office's Chief of Staff, an Air Force Colonel. It was while he was assigned to the White House that Greg got an up-close and personal view of how our government and more to the point, the executive branch operated and sometimes didn't operate. Greg recognizes that this great nation needs solutions to our problems, not politics as usual.

Since 2004, Greg flew as a commercial airline pilot for Jet Blue Airways followed by serving as president of an automobile parts distribution firm in Anaheim. In 2009, Greg was honored by his high school, Bourgade Catholic, when he was inducted into its Hall of Fame.

Greg has been married to his wife Luci for 33 years. They have three children. Their son, Major Michael Rath, USMCR, is the third generation of military aviators in the Rath family and now an accomplished business regional sales manager for a Fortune 500 company. His daughters, Kristen and Kathryn, are both elementary school teachers with the Irvine Unified School District. Luci just retired as a supervisor for student teachers at the University of California, Irvine.

Greg was elected to Mission Viejo City Council in November 2014 and is currently serving as Mayor Pro Tem for 2015.