



Colonel Gregory G. Rath USMC (Ret.)

Greg grew up in Phoenix, Arizona and went to Arizona State University where he earned his Bachelor Degree in Business in 1975. 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.

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 he served as a Marine officer and fighter pilot, he became a decorated combat veteran of Operations Desert Storm and Southern Watch in Iraq, and Restore Hope in Somalia flying the F/A-18 Hornet. He went on to command several aircraft units, including Commanding Officer of Marine Aircraft Group 46 in San Diego. 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. Near the end of his military career he served three years at the White House as Chief of Staff of the White House Military Office.

Colonel Greg Rath retired from the Marine Corps in 2004 to live a more peaceful life with his wife, Luci; his son Michael (Major USMC) and twin daughters, Kristen & Kathy. He flew as a commercial airline pilot for a short time before becoming an author. He wrote and published the best seller book, *9 Lives of a Fighter Pilot, One Pilot's Personal Story as an American Patriot*.

Greg was elected to the City Council of the City of Mission Viejo in November 2014. He served as Mayor Pro Tem in 2015 & 2018. He has served on the Orange County Veterans Advisory Council since August 2017 and is currently Vice-Chairman.