

Born in Durango Colorado in July of 1944 (before the advent of cell phones, micro-computers and so much more).

Attended Catholic and then public school (neither of which seemed to do much good at the time)

At the ripe old age of 17 joined the United States Army (the best option offered by my probation officer at the time) and found a home for 20 years. May not have been the best soldier but had the honor and privilege of serving with the best in the 46th Special Forces Company (Thailand), 5th Special Forces Group (Vietnam) and the 8th Special Forces Group (Panama). The motto of U.S. Army Special Forces, De oppresso liber, "To free the oppressed," serves me very well still today. I did manage to get a bachelor's degree from the University of Maryland while still on active duty.

After retirement found gainful employment in the Pentagon Federal Credit Union and then the McLean Group (our clients were mostly large financial institutions in NYC) and then later as an independent data base / software consultant. Although it was a bit late in life, I had a mid-life crisis in my 50's and became a professional photographer.

It was my great privilege to serve as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for Children in the Dependency Court system. Two years in San Diego and then a year in El Paso. This is what molded me to become a lifelong advocate for children.

Have been involved in Rotary since 2013, first as a charter member of Chiang Mai International Rotary Club (CMIRC) and now as a charter member of The Rotary Club to End Human Trafficking (RCEHT). Currently, I have the honor of serving as the Thailand Co-Coordinator for Rotary Action Group Against Slavery (RAGAS) and on the RAGAS board of directors.

Jerry Nelson