

Art Gandionco:

Art was originally from Cebu City, Philippines immigrated to the U.S. in June 1971 with his parents, 4 brothers and sisters and resided in Jacksonville Florida. One month later, Art enlisted in the US Navy at NAS Jacksonville and graduated from Boot Camp in Orlando, Florida in August 1971. Art's first duty assignment was aboard the USS Yosemite (AD-19) as a Seaman on a TAD status. Later Art reported aboard the USS Albany CG-10 stationed in NS Mayport, FL. During his tour of duty aboard the Flagship of COMCRUDESRON 12, Art visited several places in the Mediterranean such as Italy, Greece, Portugal, Spain, France, Belgium, Turkey and Netherlands. He also visited parts of the Caribbean and South America. The Albany also participated the Operation Deep Freeze operating 150 nautical miles inside the Arctic Circle. In 1973, the Albany was transferred to NS Philadelphia Naval Shipyard for 14 months ship rehabilitation. Later the Albany relieved USS Newport News CA-148 as 6th Fleet Flagship in Gaeta, Italy as her homeport. Following Art's honorable discharged from active duty; Art was transferred to Naval Reserve active status. During his career in the Naval Reserve from July 1975 and upon his retirement in December 1997, he was assigned to the Naval Reserve Force Center in Baltimore, MD aboard USS Steineker DD-863. He moved back to Jacksonville and was assigned to NAS Cecil Field aboard various reserve units; Military Sealift Command, MAG 7474, VA 1074, VA 203, IRU 206 and AIMD. Art was later transferred to NAS Jacksonville aboard Naval Air Reserve Unit, Aviation Supply Department, NSC 108, and Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 14.

Art's military membership includes the Fleet Reserve Association (FRA) Branch 91, Society of American Military Engineers (SAME), USS Albany Association, US Navy Cruiser Sailors Association and Filipino American Veterans Society, Inc. (FAVS). Art is an active member of several professional organizations such as American Society of Highway Engineers (ASHE), and American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). He is also a member of the Visayas and Mindanao Association (VMA) in Jacksonville.

Art holds a Bachelor of Industrial Engineering Technology from University of North Florida (UNF) and Associate of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering from Florida Community College of Jacksonville (FCCJ). Presently, Art is a Senior Civil Engineer with RAM Professional Group, Inc. for over 18 years; an engineering design consulting firm specialized in civil, electrical, landscape architecture and transportation. Art has more than 29 years of civil and transportation engineering experience.

Art is married for more than 35 years to the former Yvonne Ybanez, a registered nurse from UF & Shands Hospital. She is a retiree from St. Vincent Medical Center after 30 years of nursing service. They are blessed with three children; Archie, Andre, Jolyne and her husband Chris Hamilton who is aboard the USS Carl Vinson. Art and Yvonne have a granddaughter named Aijalon. They enjoy RVing, fishing and weekend road trips of his classic Mustangs. Art is also a member of the Jacksonville Mustang Club and the Mustang Club of America.