

Rebecca Shannon Duggan

The second oldest of five children, I was born on August 12th 1958 in a small hospital in Warren, Michigan. I graduated from Hazel Park High in 1976 and immediately went to work bypassing the opportunity to attend college while I was still young. My first full-time job was working in an automotive paint factory where I learned how to make paint, drive a forklift and toss 55 gallon drums of paint around by hand. What an experience that was! I was one of the first of 5 females hired to work in that factory and, boy, did we ladies have a tough time proving our worth to the men in that place. I was laid off from the paint factory in 1979 due to economic conditions that hit the American automotive industry when the Japanese imports began to catch the attention of the American consumer.

In late 1979, I went to work for the United States Army under the Comprehensive Employment Training Act (CETA) and was hired permanently in 1981 as civil servant. I have been a devoted civil servant for 23 years now. I have worked my way up the ranks into positions of increasing responsibility. Throughout my service with the Army I've worked in numerous positions to include: Motor Vehicle Operator; Computer Operator; Contract Inspector; Program Analyst; Assistant Secretary to the General's Staff; Executive Officer for the Installation Manager and Executive Officer for the Resource Manager, Program Integration Officer for the Assistance Chief of Staff for Human Resources, Strategic Planning Analyst for Future Combat Systems, and currently I'm and Executive Officer for a director of logistics for combat support. I plan to retire from civil service in about 6 years at the ripe young age of 55.

I've been a Michigan resident all my life. Although I often dream of moving to another state, and of late to another country, I have held off from doing so mainly because of my devotion to my 100 year old Grandmother who still looks forward to my visits to the nursing home every week. I have been very fortunate to have a Grandmother that I can still enjoy and who still recognizes me.

I was always fascinated with airplanes as a young girl and wanting to join the Air Force but I never had the courage to step out of the stereotype expectations of my family to pursue aviation, at least not until 1996 when I was going through a divorce. My divorce was a turning point for me. It was the first time in my life that I had ever really taken a long and hard look at what I wanted out of life, not what everyone else wanted for me. I signed up and took my first flying lesson at Romeo Airport and was immediately hooked. There was no turning back for me. It took me 3 years to get my license after changing flight schools 4 times but on July 7, 1999 I became a private pilot.

I also went back to school. While working fulltime I managed to earn a Bachelor's degree in Business Management. I also obtained a certification as a personal fitness trainer in 2004 and work in fitness training part-time. I'm currently working toward certifications in Nutrition, Exercise Physiology and Department of Defense Public Affairs Officer. I believe you're never too old to stop learning.

For me, life has just begun! I'm experiencing new things everyday and intend to continue learning and experiencing new things until I take my last breathe of air. My Grandmother on my Mother's side (God rest her soul) always said "If you're going to dream, dream big." Well, she'll be glad to know that I'm dreaming big and I'm making those dreams come true.

Whatever you can conceive, you can achieve.
Dream BIG!