

# About Your Host: William (Bill) Hodges

Other than saying he was born at a young age, we will start with his Air Force career in 1959 as a Bomb-Navigation equipment specialist on B-52s. He then moved to Armament and Electronics Analysis where he received accolades for a charting program he created that the Strategic Air Command adopted worldwide.

He later moved to Wing Training and began what would ultimately be his calling in life—training others. He became involved in several areas including the design and development of military and NASA electronic systems. He later started his own seminar company and continued working on military bases as a valued contractor. In fact, by student evaluations, he was voted most effective out of 1,000 contractors.

Bill still speaks before civic and military groups on a voluntary basis, writes a newspaper column—Positive Talk—and hosts a television show—Spotlight on Government on TBCN here in Tampa Bay.

He also stays active with a host of veteran projects. Seven years ago, he initiated and still manages a Veterans Video Photo Project for the Sun City Center Community Association. In the project he created a Wall of Honor and has over 800 veterans' photos running 24/7 in a place of honor.

In 2017 he started Veterans Corner Radio on Sun Radio in Sun City Center which features guests who disseminate information to help veterans and their families deal effectively with the VA and other government agencies. That program now airs on four FM radio stations throughout Tampa Bay and has attracted the interest

of several others.

When the Pandemic began, he quickly realized that having guests come to the station broadcast studio to record would become difficult if not impossible. He also had been feeling bad for some time that the programs he was recording were playing twice each on the four stations and then the information was gone forever. To solve the first problem, he learned to use Zoom as so many others did and that extended his reach to have guests from every corner of our country. In the past year he has had a wide variety of influential and knowledgeable people in veterans' affairs including the national leaders of all of the National Veterans Organizations, Undersecretaries and Directors from the VA and a multitude of others you can see when you review the program library that Bill created when he took the program to a podcast in April of 2020. That solved his problem of the programs being lost once they had been aired. In the first year Veterans Corner Radio podcast has had almost 9000 downloads and the podcast rating company Listen In rated Veterans Corner Radio in the top 10% of podcasts in the world.

Two years ago, Bill initiated Freedom Floats in Sun City Center. He and his wife Phyllis invite veterans and their families to enjoy a relaxing cruise aboard their pontoon on 54-acre North Lake.

Bill's other veteran activities include membership on the Sun City Center Chamber Military Committee and active member in Bob's Vets and the Disabled American Veterans.

In recognition of his efforts on behalf of veterans, Bill was honored by being chosen to serve as grand opening emcee of the new South Hillsborough VA Outpatient Clinic in Riverview, Voted an honorary member of the local chapter of the Military Officers Association of America and recently was given the Keeping the American Patriotic Spirit Alive award.