

## David Kirkland

I am very fortunate to be married to Barbara my wife of 43 years, a dad of one son and grandfather to two grandchildren, DJ and McKinlee. Newly married, Barbara and I moved from Starke to Keystone Heights in 1973 when I began working at Clay Electric Cooperatives' Meadowbrook (now Orange Park) office. Prior to Clay Electric I had worked in construction just after graduating from Santa Fe Community college. I retired from Clay Electric in January 2015 after a 42 year tenure.

I'm privileged to serve on the Keystone Airpark Authority since 2009. The airport is the jewel of both Bradford and Clay counties that it resides in. It has evolved from a historic training site of the 1940's to an active facility serving general, corporate and military aviation.

Since my childhood days, I've always been interested in flying. As a kid I assembled plastic airplane models then graduated to balsa motorized airplanes, then started taking flying lessons and eventually earned my private pilot's license while attending junior college. I own a 1969 Cessna 172, 4-place airplane that I keep hangered at the Keystone Airport.

For the last three years I've volunteered to help with the "Back to School" event sponsored by the Community Church and LAM. It's a long day helping kids try on new shoes but the smiles on their faces after getting a new pair of shoes makes it very rewarding.

Barbara and I are active in our church (Madison Baptist Church) working as teachers for Vacation Bible Schools, AWANA kid's ministry, choir members and wherever we're needed.

Three favorite quotes; **C.S. Lewis said**, "Aim at heaven and you will get earth thrown in. Aim at earth and will get neither." **J.R. Miller wrote**, "The only thing that walks back from the tomb with the mourners and refuses to be buried is the character of a man. What a man is, survives him. It can never be buried." Don't recall the author of the following but I like the message, "Champions don't fight their critics, they stay focused on the cause."

Another hobby I enjoy is fishing for both fresh and salt water species. I also enjoy bow hunting for deer in Illinois and tilapia in Lake George.

A few years ago our son Bryan who is an ARNP starting telling me that needed to get in the gym for my health. I started going part time, but eventually started going each day. Since joining Genesis my overall health is much better and we now have an extended family of friends who also enjoy working out first thing in the mornings. This is a great group who cares about their fellow workout partners and keeps each other accountable, so come join the "5:30 a.m." early group.