

## A brief history of the Paradise Valley Estates Board of Directors

**On January 4, 1992 the Northern California Retired Officer Community (NCROC) was incorporated by a handful of retired military officers in order to form Paradise Valley Estates (PVE). They had a vision of the proposed community but realized that they lacked the specific expertise to establish it. Therefore, the following year they entered into an agreement with Haskell Community Developers to assist them in the development of PVE. Groundbreaking occurred on 29 July 1996, and the first resident moved in during November of the following year.**

The NCROC Board governs the operation of PVE. It is composed of retired military officers (and now civilians) with the diverse capabilities necessary to carry out the Board's duties. Most of the past Board Chairs are alive today - Colonels Bergerot, Rawlinson, Ross and Mackie are current PVE residents, along with former Board members Maj. Gen. Vernon Chong, MD, Lt. Col. Ray Schoch and Lt. Col. Ruby Hardy.

Maj. Gen. John Collens, who had been the Board Chair since PVE's incorporation, left the Board in January 2000 and was succeeded by Col. Paul Bergerot. The Board continued to oversee the buildout of the main campus along with the Haskell team, and also handled issues that arose with the establishment of a new, burgeoning community. Col. Bergerot was succeeded by Col. Bill Rawlinson in 2008.

Bill worked closely with Keith Kreidell, COO of Senior Living Services for Haskell, in negotiating the purchase in 2011 of an adjoining parcel of land for future PVE expansion. While some questioned this action during the Great Recession, the acquisition has a present market value of nearly twice the purchase price. That parcel is now known as The Ridge.

Unfortunately, the successful team of Rawlinson and Kreidell was broken up by Kreidell's untimely passing in May 2013. Haskell then decided to withdraw completely from its management duties and the Board ultimately decided to self-manage.

Two significant Board changes occurred before Bill left the Board in December 2014. First, the Board decided to open PVE to qualified civilian residents. Second, the decision was made to admit a resident as a Board member. Capt. Chuck Smith is the current holder of this position.



Capt. Nicholas R. Van Male  
USNR (RET)

Col. Bud Ross became Chair in 2015. He was faced almost immediately with a daunting challenge when both the CEO and COO left for other positions. During the search to replace them, Bud acted as both the Chair of the Board and acting CEO until the current CEO, Kevin Burke, was hired. Remarkably, Bud undertook the acting CEO position with no monetary compensation.

The Board also made two important decisions during Bud's tenure as Chair. The first was to commence building of The Ridge expansion. The second task was to add highly qualified civilian members to the Board to enhance its previously all-military composition.

Bud retired from the Board at the end of 2017 and Col. Ken Mackie served for the next year. During Ken's tenure, groundbreaking for The Ridge expansion was held in the spring of this year. Occupancy by the first residents is anticipated for 2021. Ken was also instrumental in expanding Board membership, refreshing its committees, and revising NCROC's Bylaws.

I was elected to succeed Ken in March of this year, making history as the first non-Air Force Board Chair. I am grateful to all the previous Board chairs and directors for their legacy of active involvement, tenacity, and vision.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nick Van Male", written in a cursive style.

Capt. Nicholas R. Van Male, **USNR (RET)**  
*Chairman of the Board, Paradise Valley Estates*