

Phil Arnold

Wyoming High School Class of 1964

Community Therapist

Education & Background

Wyoming High School Activities: Basketball 9-12; Football 9-12; Hi-Y 9-12; Senior Council 12; Band 9-12; Dance Band 9-10

Syracuse University: Certificate of Achievement, 1966 - East European Language Program

University of Cincinnati: BA Psychology, 1972

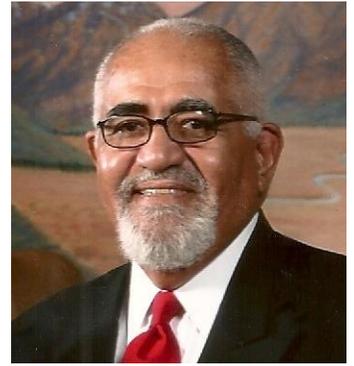
Life Achievements

Phil is a third-generation native son of Wyoming. His mother Juanita Beckwith graduated in the Wyoming class of 1931 with 23 other students in her class. Phil's life achievements parallel his life's journey.

Wyoming was a netting of life experiences and social values that provided Phil with an insatiable appetite to better understand the human condition as it related to social justice, racial equity, and what was in the early 60's a legally apartheid country. His first exposure to social justice came with the closing of the segregated Oak Avenue school after the 1954 Supreme Court Brown vs The Board of Education, Topeka decision. Phil's first exposure to an integrated school environment came in the 5th grade which introduced him to adversity and exclusion as a race based social doctrine of the times. It is that very foundation that has fueled his life long quest for social equity and the elimination of racism. While at Wyoming High School Phil contributed to the highly successful football and basketball programs. He was also first chair of the clarinet section in the Wyoming Band and played tenor sax in the Dance Band.

After graduation from Wyoming in 1964, Phil played one year of football at the University of Cincinnati on scholarship which turned out to be a successful freshman football campaign but in an environment not to his liking, so he left school. Phil answered the call of duty during the Vietnam war and enlisted in the United States Air Force. After an intense battery of aptitude testing he was selected to attend the Defense Language Institute's (DLI) National Security Agency detachment at Syracuse University. It was a complete emersion program that covered 6½ years of college Russian language training in 9 months.

Phil is proud to say now as a veteran that he was a Russian Voice Intercept Processing Specialist, United States Air Force-Security Service (NSA) serving in Europe and the Middle East as a Russian Interpreter monitoring and interpreting Soviet Air Force and Soyuz space module voice communications via top secret cryptographic advanced electronic eavesdropping technology. Composed primarily of airmen culled from the cream of the Air Force's enlisted recruits (the top 1/2 of 1 percent), the USAFSS was a secretive and tight-knit branch of Air Force cold warriors tasked with monitoring, collecting and interpreting military voice and electronic signals of countries of interest which often were Soviet and their satellite Eastern bloc countries.



Between his shifts on duty doing electronic eavesdropping, Phil played basketball for his Trabzon, Turkey base team and won honors as a Mediterranean Sea District All-Star as well as being named to the USAF Europe All-Tournament team. He also played semi-pro basketball with a Turkish National team to enhance Turkish-US logistics.

Upon completion of his military service in 1969, Phil returned to Wyoming. He completed his degree in Psychology at the University of Cincinnati in three years while working full time at General Electric on the swing shift grit blasting low pressure vanes for jet engine parts. After graduation he embarked on a sales and marketing career with Fortune 500 companies such as Xerox, Bank of America, ADP, and Oracle holding a variety of senior level management positions.

Phil's mantra is, "You can pretend to care, but you can't pretend to show up." He learned this playing football for the Cowboys on its 1962 undefeated, untied, and unscored upon championship team where all teammates were expected to show up with their A-Game for every game...and they did.

When it comes to showing up, Phil has been a great asset to his California community and has been recognized for his selfless efforts in California's Contra Costa County (pop. 1,148,363). He was named Humanitarian of the Year in 1994 by the City of Concord, California's Human Relations Commission, the recipient of the 1994 California School Administrators Outstanding Friend of Education Award, and the recipient of the Contra Costa County 2018 Humanitarian of the Year Award. He has also served as the President of the Black Families Association of Central Contra Costa County.

Phil currently serves as the Chairperson of the Contra Costa County Board of Parole and is also a Committee Member for the Sheriff's Inmate Welfare Fund. Phil continues to give back to his community serving as the Executive Director for The Juvenile Hall Auxiliary in California's Contra Costa County in Northern California. Its mission is to give kids a second chance at a first-class life through education, mentoring, programs, and scholarships.

On the home front, Phil has been married to his wife Shelley since 1971. Shelley is a 1969 Shaker Heights grad. They have 3 adult children and six grandchildren that keep them busy when they are not doing community service work.