

## William “Bill” Yucuis

## Waterman-Twining Chapter President

William “Bill” Yucuis graduated from the United States Air Force Academy in 1974 with a degree in Aeronautical Engineering. Bill spent 20 years in the Air Force, primarily as a pilot, and flew F-4 and F-16 aircraft. In between flying assignments, Bill attended Purdue University and earned a Master’s degree in Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering. Bill then returned to the Air Force Academy where he was an Assistant Professor in the Department of Astronautical Engineering for three and one-half years. He has been assigned all over the world, including England, Germany, and Korea and traveled to numerous other countries, including Italy, Spain, the Philippines, Panama, Chile, Argentina, and Venezuela. Bill retired from the Air Force in 1994 and moved to Orlando, Florida, where he began a second career in public school education.



Bill taught 8<sup>th</sup> grade math for six years in Orange County, where he was head of their Math Department for two years. Bill was hired by Lyman High School in 2002 to start a four-year Aerospace track for the Seminole County Institute for Engineering Magnet program. The Aerospace track required students to take an Aerospace class as an elective each year to explore the many aspects of the Aerospace field. They spent the freshman year learning general Aerospace concepts plus basic engineering skills. The sophomore year in Aerospace focused on aircraft while the junior year emphasized astronautics. During their senior year, students worked on engineering projects, many which included state or national competitions. In addition to Aerospace related projects, such as rocketry and aircraft design, Bill introduced several types of robotics over the years, including Lego, VEX, Sea Perch (underwater robots), and NAO (humanoid robot). Bill also was the Lyman CyberPatriot coach for five years. CyberPatriot is the Air and Space Force Association (AFA) national Cyber Education Program.

Bill earned National Board Certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) in 2007 and numerous outstanding teacher awards. In 2007, Bill was selected as the AFA Florida Teacher of the Year and the Seminole County High School Science Teacher of the Year. Finally, Bill was named by the USA Today newspaper to their 2007 All-USA Teacher Team, one of 20 teachers selected nationwide for their promotion of teaching in the Science, Technology, Mathematics, and Engineering (STEM) fields.

In May of 2014, Bill retired from public school teaching and moved to Sun City Center, Florida. My wife, Lyn, and Bill have been married since 1989, and we both enjoy playing golf. Lyn was an F-15 and F-16 Maintenance Officer and left the Air Force when Bill retired. In Orlando, Lyn worked at Walt Disney World for 20 years in numerous positions and retired in July 2014 as a Security Manager.

Bill has been active volunteer in the Air and Space Force Association (AFA) for over 20 years, working at the local, state, and national levels. He has served as a Chapter President (in two different Chapters), a Chapter and State Education Vice President, the Florida State Executive Vice President, and Florida State President. He is currently the Waterman-Twining Chapter President

Bill was a member of the AFA Education Council (AEC), which directs and oversees all AFA Education Programs, for 20+ years. In September 2014, Bill was selected by the AEC to be the Chairman of an AFA Space Task Force which developed StellarXplorers, the first, and I believe only, national space design competition, and from 2015 - 2021, he was the StellarXplorers Chief of Academics and Training. Bill also developed the curriculum for a 5-day StellarCamp, which was piloted in the summer of 2021. Bill currently mentors StellarXplorers teams both in person and virtually.