

WILL DELANEY

BIOGRAPHY

Will Delaney is an honorably discharged United States Marine Corps Veteran who while serving in South Vietnam earned a 'Campaign Medal with Star.' After his release from active military duty at Camp Pendleton Marine Base in 1967, Will moved to the San Francisco Bay Area. Eleven months and eleven days into 1971 Will was incarcerated at the San Bruno County Jail. While incarcerated Will became one of the organizers of the Inmates Communications Workshop (ICW). The ICW was essentially a pre-reentry program that helped inmates promote and enhance their individual and collective talents while preparing for their return to society. The group's functional in-house success paved the way for a connection with City College of San Francisco to arrange for a volunteer to teach the inmates Meditation Techniques and Creative Writing. It was in the San Bruno County Jail at the age of 26 that Will received his first chess lessons. After learning the basics of the game Will was able to master with relative ease the cryptic challenges of chess. Combining his strategic military training with the elite logistics of the game. Will's chess playing abilities soared to appreciable degrees seemingly overnight due in great part to competition level interactions with friends and note worthy opponents. Progressive play in the United States Chess Federation (USCF) rated tournaments from garnered Will a top ranking of 2163; Expert.

As one of the developers of the *Greater Richmond Chess Association* (GRCA) in 1981, Will sought to share his love of the game with people of all ages. Will became the first *GRCA Club Champion*. Although he cherished the honor of being appointed to the GRCA Board of Directors his true passion was that of being an active player and Coach/Mentor in as many Chess scenarios as possible.

In 2009, Will and a former member of GRCA developed the West Coast Chess Alliance (WCCA). After being titled the WCCA Assistant Director and Chief Instructor, Will continued to concentrate his focus on highlighting and demonstrating the benefits, life lessons and life skills derived from this astonishing game called chess.

“Losing Is No Option - Learning Is” is a vital part of Will’s curriculum. The fundamental purpose of this teaching is to produce a generation that does not entertain, for any length of time, the concept of losing but to be winners through learning. Will encourages his students to take that which they are taught, have fun applying it to the best of their ability and to learn from the experience. “If you learn from the experience, you are not a loser...you are a winner.”

Another prominent facet of Will’s Chess Network is the Vets4ChessAlliance (V4CA). This club was built on the same premise represented in the youth program. So it goes without saying that the older set of students, specifically Veterans who are struggling with reintegration after wartime conflict can have their mental acuties channeled back toward a positive mental functioning given proper redirection. Chess is most certainly that process of focusing with regards to critical thinking skills and proper judgement calls.

Will has introduced and taught Chess in an amazing array of arenas ranging throughout the Oakland and East Bay environs to include the Alameda Point Collaborative (APC), Martin Luther King Elementary School, WhatNowAmerica, Museum of African American Technology (MAAT) Science Villege, Peres Elementary School, Girls Inc., East Bay Center For Performing Arts, Contra Costa Community College, Alameda County Office of Education - Juvenile Facility at Camp Butler, DownTownTay, Lafayette Elementary School, West Oakland Branch Library and Oak Center Cultural Center in west Oakland.

With standing memberships in such prestigious organizations as the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars (Sen. Vice Commander Post 8399 761st Tank Battalion) , National Association of Black Veterans, (Commander Chapter 92), United States Chess Federaton, Mechanics Institute Chess Club and Berkeley Chess Club.

Will Delaney remains a vital, inspirational and influential force in and around the East Bay Area communities.

“With sincere regards to the principles of service and sacrifice, it is my goal and life work to be a positive influence in my community and beyond.”



Tara Hills Elementary School

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May 31, 2016

Dear Mr. Will Delaney,

On behalf of our entire Tara Hills School Community, I would like to extend our deepest gratitude to you and the Vets4Chess Program. Bringing people together to form positive connections, to inspire, to learn, to teach, and to be a part of the greater good is what Tara Hills is all about. Vets4Chess does that and more. It is a heartwarming sight to see adults and students sitting together, strategizing, and playing chess. You can see students beaming with confidence and smiling because they know that someone from the Vets4Chess will be on campus just for them. During recess you can see herds of students rushing to get to the chess boards. I don't know of any other program in my career where I have seen so many students skip all of the ongoing recess games to get involved in something new.

Vets4Chess is so much more than just a game, it is a gift. Thank you for coming to Tara Hills.

Sincerely,

Linda J. Wilkinson
Principal
Tara Hills



I appreciate your time.

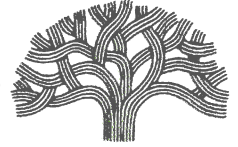
My name is Tiffany Reed and my sons name is Marcus Reed-Quinn. Marcus met my neighbor Will Delaney during one of the times he was at Camp Butler the juvenile hall in Alameda County. Mr. Delaney goes there to teach chess to the young men in lock up. On one of his trips to the facility he connected with my son Marcus. Mr. Delaney began a conversation with him and that was the begining of his consistent encouragement to my son. I want to give Mr. Delaney credit for telling Marcus that his time there in the hall was not the end of the road, it was a NEW BEGINING.

Marcus took that to the max. He served his time (50 days) then went on to New Beginnings Group Home. He entered the group home with 12 units from high school. At the end of his 10 months he graduated from high school on time and with 132 units. Thank you Will Delaney for your encouraging words. You had a hand in saving this one.

Tiffany C. Reed

07/22/16

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Will Delaney, founder of Its Your Move Chess Clinic, has been volunteering at the West Oakland Public Library since 2008. He has held a weekly chess clinic for all ages primarily focusing on the youth of West Oakland. His clinic is well loved by many long term residents of the area. His mentorship for many of the young people in the community is admirable. His long service to the community is greatly appreciated.

Susy Moorhead.

Susy Moorhead
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