



JOHN DELAVAN BAINES BIOGRAPHY

MILITARY SERVICE – 1966 to 1972

- US Navy Seabees: Mobile Construction Battalions - "MCB 11" and "MCB 3".
- US Navy STAT Teams - #1114 and #316
- Home Port: Port Hueneme, California.
- Tours of Duty: Republic of Vietnam – Quang Tri, Dong Ha, Cam Lo, My Chanh & the "Rock Pile".
- Tours of Duty: US Trust Territories – Truk Atoll (Truk Islands); Guam (Mariana Islands); and, Majuro, Kwajalein & Eniwetok (Marshall Islands).
- Dates of Service: 1966 to 1972.

REAL ESTATE BROKERAGE – 1970 to Present

In 1970 Mr. Baines established John D. Baines Properties as one of San Antonio's leading commercial land brokerage firms. His knowledge, experience and ability to match buyers with properties that are perfectly suited to their needs has resulted in hundreds of successful transactions throughout central and south Texas. He has won the trust and respect of both individual and corporate clients due to his integrity, professionalism, relentless work-ethic and, most importantly, his ability to keep his client's business dealings in the strictest of confidence. Over the past five-decades John D. Baines Properties has represented local, regional, national and international clients in some of San Antonio's most noteworthy land transactions.

ELLISON INDUSTRIES – 1973 to 1976

In 1973 Mr. Baines secured the exclusive listing on Ray Ellison Industries' commercial land portfolio. At the time, Ray Ellison Industries was the largest privately owned homebuilder in the United States. In 1976, the listing portfolio was valued at over \$150,000,000.00. During this timeframe, we brokered the largest commercial land transaction in San Antonio's history.



MILLION AIR & SUMMA AVIATION – 1983 to 1988

Mr. Baines was an owner of Million Air and Summa Aviation, the premiere fixed-base operations for privately owned aircraft at the San Antonio International Airport. These operations were sold in 1988.

CAESARS WORLD RESORTS – 1989 to 1994

During the “real estate depression” of the late 80’s and early 90’s, Mr. Baines’ resourcefulness resulted in his becoming a consultant to Caesars World Resorts, Las Vegas, Nevada. His consulting responsibilities included reviewing and recommending destination resort properties for purchase or management by Caesars in the United States, Canada, Mexico, Central & South America, and the Caribbean. Mr. Baines consulting contract expired when Caesars sold to ITT Corporation in 1994.

JOHN D. BAINES PROPERTIES – 1995 to 2000

In 1995, after Mr. Baines’ consulting contract with Caesars had expired and the San Antonio real estate market recovered, he resumed his land brokerage activities with his 25-year old firm, John D. Baines Properties. During the ensuing 5-years, he brokered some of San Antonio’s most noteworthy commercial land transactions.

BAINES PASTURELAND COMPANY – 2001 to Present


In 2001 Mr. Baines expanded his business by establishing Baines Pastureland Company to broker and invest in ranch properties in central and south Texas.

HONORS & AWARDS:

- On February 17th 1969 Texas Lieutenant Governor Ben Barnes addressed a joint session of the Senate and House of Representatives to introduce a Senate Resolution recognizing Mr. Baines for his distinguished service in Vietnam. Mr. Baines and his mother, who also attended the ceremony, received a standing ovation.
- On February 17th 1969 Texas Governor Preston Smith honored Mr. Baines with an appointment to Commissioned Admiral in the Texas Navy.
- At 30-years of age, Mr. Baines was recognized as an “Outstanding Young Texan” by Who’s Who in Texas Business.



- On the morning of November 10th 1981 President Ronald Reagan greeted Mr. Baines and a small contingent of Vietnam Veterans in a Rose Garden reception, at the White House, to announce the President's newly created Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program. Mr. Baines served as a co-chairman from 1981 to 1984.
- During President George H. W. Bush's administration, Mr. Baines was nominated for an appointment to Assistant Secretary of the Navy. He was passed over in the final selection process, but was honored to have been nominated.
- On December 4th 1986 the Mayor and City Council of San Antonio commended Mr. Baines for his "unselfish service and sacrifices for all veterans of our nation's conflicts, particularly those of the Vietnam War who shall always be remembered through your untiring efforts..." "The Mayor and City Council call to the attention of all citizens of San Antonio your very important contributions and hereby proclaim you as "Benefactor of the Community."
- As a result of Mr. Baines personal invitation; On July 28th 1987 General Alfred M. Gray (29th Commandant of the Marine Corps) was the keynote speaker at a ceremony to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the battle of Hill-881 South and the Khe Sanh hill fights. Accompanying General Gray on his visit to San Antonio were future Assistant Commandant General Walter E. Boomer and the 11th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, David W. Sommers. Other members of the Commandant's staff members were also present.
- On August 18th 1988 Mr. Baines was honored by the United States Marine Corps at a Meritorious Mast for his efforts to create "Hill-881 South", San Antonio's Vietnam Veterans Memorial.
- On September 2nd 1988 Mr. Baines was an honored guest at the Commandant's House, Headquarters United States Marine Corps, Washington, DC. The following is an excerpt of a subsequent letter from the Commandant..."John, the dedication of San Antonio's Vietnam Veterans Memorial was a great day for Vietnam veterans and for America. Your dedicated professionalism and superior leadership made all of this happen. Your inspiring effort has earned the deepest respect of your Marine Corps, your Navy, of all the armed forces and from a grateful nation. Semper Fi – Al Gray, 29th Commandant, United States Marine Corps."
- Mr. Baines twice received recognition for the J.C. Penny Golden Rule Award as one of San Antonio's outstanding volunteers for his work on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. In 1987 he received a Second Place award and in 1991 he received the First Place award.
- On October 27th 1992 Mr. Baines received a Citation from the City of San Antonio for his "Outstanding Service to the Community" as a member of the Riverwalk Commission.
- In 2020 the Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce selected Mr. Baines to serve as chairman of their 50th Anniversary of Celebrate America's Military ("CAM"). The two-week long, fifty-event celebration was cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions.

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- Mr. Baines professional career, military service and his involvement in veteran related programs have been featured in magazine articles and hard cover books: New York Times, U.S. News & World Report (“Eight Viet Vets Who Came Out Winners”), Newsweek magazine, Texas Monthly magazine, Texas Highways magazine, Stars and Stripes, Navy Times, Marines magazine, Leatherneck magazine, Military Times, The Retired Officer magazine, Soldier of Fortune, Warriors Remembered, The Khe Sanh Hill Fights, The Art of War, and Vietnam – Even God was Against Us.

AFFILIATIONS

Current Affiliations:

- The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (Vietnam War Veterans Corps & Member in Good Standing)
- The Sons of the Republic of Texas (Member in Good Standing)
- Texas First Families (Member in Good Standing)
- Sons of Confederate Veterans (Member in Good Standing)
- Military Order of the Stars & Bars (Member in Good Standing)
- Texas Navy Association (Commissioned Admiral & Member in Good Standing)
- Beta Theta Pi Fraternity Alumni Association (Member in Good Standing)

Past Affiliations:

- San Antonio Riverwalk Commission (District Ten Representative)
- State Bar of Texas Grievance Committee (One of Two Laymen Members)
- San Antonio Business Committee for the Arts (Committee Member)
- San Antonio Congressional Medal of Honor Memorial (Steering Committee Member)
- United States Navy Memorial, Washington, DC (Benefactor & Member in Good Standing)
- Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program, Washington, DC (Co-Chairman)
- Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Washington, DC (Recognized Benefactor)
- Vietnam Veterans Memorial of San Antonio, Inc. (Founder & Chairman)
- National Association of Vietnam Veterans (Honorary Director)



- Friends of the McNay Art Museum (Benefactor and Member in Good Standing)
- San Antonio Livestock Association (Life Member & Auction Committee Member)
- San Antonio Museum Association (Recognized Benefactor & Member in Good Standing)
- Texas Ranger Association Foundation (Benefactor & Member in Good Standing)
- Texas Wildlife Association (Member in Good Standing)
- Texas Trophy Hunters Association (Member in Good Standing)
- National Rifle Association (Member in Good Standing)
- The Town Club of San Antonio (Member in Good Standing)
- The University of Texas at Austin Ex Students Association (Member in Good Standing)
- The Longhorn Foundation (Benefactor & Member in Good Standing)
- San Antonio Board of Realtors (Member in Good Standing)
- San Antonio Real Estate Roundtable (Founder)
- San Antonio Independent Commercial Brokers Association (Founder)
- San Antonio Real Estate Council (Member in Good Standing)
- Texas Alliance of Land Brokers (Member in Good Standing)