

## James Upper

### Law/Enforcement



James L. Upper attended Collinwood High School from 1950 – 1954. He majored in technical courses, specializing in foundry. He was the President of the Foundry class and was a speaker at commencement. Jim was a member of the Key Club and played football in the 10th and 11th grades.

Upper enlisted in the United States Marine Corp in 1954. He had his recruitment training at Parris Island, South Carolina, and his basic infantry training at Camp Geiger, North Carolina and Sea School at Portsmouth, Virginia. James was assigned to the Atlantic Fleet Headquarters in Norfolk, Virginia – Flag Detachment. This duty involved personal security for the Commander in Chief of the Atlantic Fleet and other Flag officers.

James applied to the Police Forces in the Cleveland area and took the Ohio State Highway Patrol Test. He completed two quarters at Ohio State University in preparation for a career in law enforcement when he was contacted to fill a position as a Cadet Dispatcher in Medina, Ohio for the Ohio State Highway Patrol. In 1960, Upper graduated from the Ohio State Patrol Academy in Columbus, Ohio as an Ohio State Highway Patrolman. In 1966, Upper took a position as a Police Patrolman for the City of Worthington, Ohio. At this time, Jim began to attend night classes at Franklin University in Columbus, Ohio. He graduated with an Associates Degree in Business Administration.

In 1970, Upper was sworn in as a Deputy, United State Marshall for the Southern District of Ohio. James was involved with the air piracy program at Post Columbus, Ohio, the transporting of Federal prisoners, the security of the Federal Courthouse, protection of Federal Judges, the service and enforcement of court orders and enforcement of Federal laws.

In the early 1970's, Upper was elected to be part of the U.S. Marshal's first Special Operations Group. This group was made up of about 100 officers from all across the United States and could be brought to a location in eight hours or less.

In the middle 1970's, Upper was promoted to Supervisory Deputy – U.S. Marshal in charge of the Columbus, Ohio office, which covered 27 counties in Southeastern Ohio.

During Upper's service as a Deputy U.S. Marshall, he participated in such various events as the Witness Protection Program, guarding Government witnesses on the East Coast, the retaking of Alcatraz Island in San Francisco Bay, several weeks at the confrontation at Wounded Knee, South Dakota and court ordered school busing in Columbus, Ohio.

Upper retired from the U.S. Marshall Service in 1982. His early retirement was due to an explosion while on duty in 1980. He had numerous injuries – including the loss of a leg. Jim is a life member of the Marine Corp League, Navy League, American Veterans and the American Legion in which he has held a number of positions, including President.

Jim continues to visit disabled veterans who are in the hospital. He has delivered Meals on Wheels and helped place flags on the graves of veterans. Despite his disabilities, Upper has participated in many other worthwhile activities and organizations.

James is married to Constance M. Upper, a retired member of the State of Ohio Parole Board. They have two married daughters and three grandchildren.