

ElSegundoHerald

The Weekly Newspaper of El Segundo

HeraldPublications-ElSegundo,ManhattanBeach,Hawthorne,Lawndale,&InglewoodCommunityNewspapersSince1911-Circulation30,000-Readership60,000(310)322-1830Vol.100,No.21•May21,2009

Inside This Issue

Business &

Professional.....21

Business Briefs.....10

Calendar.....4

Classifieds.....20

Crossword.....20

Dear Carol.....18

Food & Restaurants.....9

Frankly Plank.....6

Happy Tails.....2

Herald In.....14

Letters to the Editor.....5

Obituaries.....4

Open House Directory....16

People.....4

Pets.....2

Political Penguin.....5

Sports.....6-8

Weekend Weather Forecast

Friday

Partly Cloudy

67°



Saturday

Partly Cloudy

66°



Sunday

Partly Cloudy

67°



Ed Foundation's Golf Tournament



Lou Acuna, Ed Myska, Brad Jacobson and Terry Moore with the Laker Girls. Photo by Marcy Dugan. www.marcydugan.com See Business Briefs, page 10

Aerospace Corp. Gets Support from Well-Traveled Drennan

By Brian Simon

Since settling into his new home in El Segundo last summer and taking on the dream job of overseeing operations and support for The Aerospace Corporation, retired United States Air Force Brigadier General Mike Drennan may finally end up staying in one place for awhile. In his nearly 60 years on the planet, Drennan has lived in more cities than many people have visited. In addition to multiple assignments all over the map during his nearly 30 years in the Air Force and subsequent positions working in the private sector, Drennan also moved around quite a bit as a child—although it wasn't because he was a military brat. His father was a well-known country music radio personality who eventually made it into the Country Radio Broadcasters DJ Hall of Fame. "Back in the old days, you got ahead from moving from larger city to even larger city," Drennan said of his dad's travels.

Born in New Mexico, the young Drennan also lived in Texas, California (Turlock), Colorado twice and then in Ohio for a couple of years where he graduated from Kent Roosevelt High School just outside of Cleveland. Upon encouragement from his uncle—a retired chief master sergeant—Drennan enlisted in the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs right out of high school. He graduated in 1972 with a Bachelor of Science degree in engineering management and promptly embarked on a storied career, rising up the ranks while never staying in any single place longer than five years.

Drennan spent the bulk of his active duty time in the intercontinental ballistic missile world. His assignments included stints in Missouri, Arizona, Virginia, Montana, Alabama, North Dakota, Colorado, the Pentagon and a brief but memorable period at the Comiso Air Station in Italy working with the ground

launched cruise missiles. He was also stationed in Thailand briefly at the tail end of the Vietnam War. At the end of his military career, he was commander of the 21st Space Wing at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado Springs, which had radar sites all over the world including Greenland, Spain, England, Australia, and Diego Garcia. And yes, Drennan visited those locales during that period.

Yet despite all of the constant moving around, Drennan was never alone. His wife and kids were with him at every assignment. "I got married right after the Academy to my high school sweetheart and we're still married today," he said. "It was a wonderful learning experience for all of us to see other

cultures and meet people."

After retiring in 2000, Drennan went to work for Raytheon in Denver handling space activities and business development. He joined The Aerospace Corporation in 2003, taking a job that opened in Colorado Springs. About a year ago, an opportunity became available in El Segundo when the company reorganized its support operations. As Senior Vice President for Aerospace Operations and Support Group, Drennan oversees 600 employees spread among various offices throughout the country. He handles finance and business opportunities, diversity and equal employment opportunity, human

See Aerospace, page 19

Poetry Palooza: Students Make Sonnets Bloom

By Jesse Blake McCann

Samantha Vinzon, 14, stands next to her decorated poster board in the middle of a bookstore. Several rows of chairs before her are filled with silent people with their eyes on her. The group is enclosed on two sides by a CD rack and a bookshelf, creating a mini stage for Vinzon. A light piano piece begins to play from a CD player behind her. She recites the first part of her poem:

Guided by the voice that created Earth

Journey lead by destiny and wonder

My goal: to discover what I am worth

Compelled full force, like lightning to thunder.

Vinzon originally wrote this sonnet for a class assignment. But last week, she and some of her fellow classmates were asked to read their poems in front of an audience at Borders Books in El Segundo. "[A] school presentation turned into a presentation for the community," Vinzon said.

This performance was part of Poetry Palooza, a project annually assigned by the El Segundo Middle School eighth grade language arts classes. In the assignment, students pick a piece of artwork, write three types of poems based on it (one must be a sonnet), and choose a wordless song that complements the art. They must also write

See Poetry, page 19