



POST 76 CENTENNIAL MEMORIAL



Legionnaire: Robert Michael Cox

Member of POST 76

I was born April 20, 1936 in Princeton, New Jersey. I attended Princeton High School and the Hun School between 1950-1956. I joined the USAF in fall of 1958. I completed basic training at Lackland AFB and was assigned to SAC at Loring Base in Caribou, Maine. At Loring, I was a flight line firefighter driving a crash truck. There were 60 B-52 bombers; 6 on full alert 24 hours a day. In 1960, I transferred to SAC base in Anderson, Guam where I was placed in charge of flight line Fire Prevention Base Fire Safety. In 1962 I was honorably discharged as Airman Second Class at Travis AFB in California.

In 1964, I returned to Princeton to manage the family business, Cox's Store, Inc. I was the fourth generation to work at my store; my great great grandfather opened the business on Nassau Street in 1890. I met my wife, Jane Turner and we married on July 11, 1964. Jane worked as an ESL teacher at Maurice Hawk School for seventeen years and raise our two daughters, Alice and Betsy.

After twenty five years of managing the business, I retired and made up for some lost time on the golf course. Jane and I took many hiking and sailing trips around the world. Betsy currently lives in Atlanta and works as a Clinical Social Worker. Alice works as an accountant for a non profit and lives a few blocks away from our home with her husband John and their two children, Christopher and Emily.

I've always enjoyed being active in my community. I have been a volunteer fire fighter, usher for St. David the King church for thirty years, and held many positions in the West Windsor Lions Club. In 2001, I became the Commander of American Legion Post 76 in West Windsor, a position I still hold today (October 16, 2017). I played a key role in the development of the AL Centennial Memorial, which honors all veterans in Mercer County. I believe it is the only AL Centennial Veterans memorial in the state, perhaps the country.

The dedication ceremony took place on Veterans Day, November 11, 2016. It remains one of our proudest accomplishments.

At the time of this writing (October 16, 2017), Jane and I still live in Princeton Junction as we have for over fifty two years.