

# Spotlight

# PAUL PAOLOZZI

South Riding is lucky to have many long-term volunteers. This month we would like to spotlight Paul Paolozzi, who currently serves as the Vice Chair on the Community Standards Committee.

Paul and his wife Rae Ann have lived in South Riding for over seventeen years as original owners in the same home. The pair have two adult children; a son Aaron, who currently lives in Washington state and a daughter Sarah, who resides in nearby Maryland.

A retired Colonel from the United States Army, Paul has traveled to many places around the world in his thirty years of service, commanding well over 4,000 soldiers within his two tours in Afghanistan. Paul currently utilizes his vast military experience to lead Victor Commander. Victor Commander is a program for youth ages 10-18 that teaches them important life skills such as how to hunt, essential car and home maintenance, useful camping tips, character and ethics among many other things. Paul also strives to create a "safe space" for these young

adults encouraging them to be open and have conversations about typically "touchy" topics such as politics or religion.

Paul has been volunteering in South Riding since 2018 but also volunteers outside of the community. Recently, he was involved in a mission trip to Hungary just 75 miles from the border of Ukraine to assist Ukrainian refugees fleeing the country by engineering dwellings and finding ways to provide potable water. Paul is also on the board at Cornerstone Christian Academy.

When he isn't busy volunteering or leading trainees at Victor Commander, Paul likes to keep himself busy with physical fitness. When we interviewed Paul, he had already jogged six and a half miles that day. Paul is very proud of his Stern Batman Premium Edition pinball machine, he let us know that even after the many hours he has spent playing he still finds new hidden features or challenges to unlock! Paul also enjoys hunting and fishing on a second expansive property he owns in Madison County, Virginia with his adjacent SR neighbors.

While interviewing Paul, we asked him what his favorite part of living in South Riding is? Paul states he gets along with all his neighbors and have known some of their teenage children since the time they were born. He stated he and his wife do not need a home as big as the one they currently live in for the just the two of them, but the sense of family within their tight community that they have built is well worth them staying put, he mentions you cannot put a price on such friendships. Paul also wanted the rest of the South Riding community to know that he considers all residents neighbors, and he is someone that anyone can reach out to if you need help, guidance or just a friend.

BY **BRITTANY UNTHANK**  
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