



Michigan native **Brian Bickel** is a combat veteran of the Vietnam War, serving proudly as an active-duty member of the United States Marine Corps from 1968-1972.

After discharging honorably at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Brian served five years in the Naval Reserve, then joined the Army Reserve, from which he retired in 1998 as a Major. Brian deployed to Panama for Operation Just Cause and to Saudi Arabia for Operation Desert Storm, where he received the Bronze Star Medal for Meritorious Service. He was awarded the Joint Defense Commendation Medal while deployed to Bosnia for Operation Joint Guard. Having interrupted his education to enlist, Brian enrolled at Cochise College's Douglas Campus in 1972. The following year, he enrolled at the University of Arizona, graduating in 1976 with degrees in microbiology and medical technology.

Brian and his wife, Susan, a Douglas native, moved to Lubbock, Texas, where he completed a clinical internship in Medical Technology. While working as a medical technologist, Brian completed a Master of Science degree in Interdisciplinary Studies at Texas Tech University in 1979.

After working for 17 years as the director of a hospital clinical laboratory, Brian transitioned to a career in hospital administration. He and Susan moved to Barstow, California, where he became the Assistant Chief Executive Officer of Barstow Community Hospital. For the next sixteen years, Brian served as Chief Executive Officer at hospitals around the country, wrapping up his career as CEO at Southeast Arizona Medical Center in Douglas. After his retirement Brian and Susan relocated to Tucson in 2013.

The Bickels have a son, Elliott, who with his wife, Melissa, and sons Matthew and Cody, live in Amarillo, Texas. Rounding out the family: the Bickels' rescue dogs, Bob and Coco.

Brian is firmly committed to the core values of opportunity, fairness and security. He serves on the Pima County Election Integrity Commission as Chair, on the Oro Valley Chamber of Commerce Foundation Board, and the Clinica Amistad Board. In addition to being the Treasurer of the Foothills Clusters Homeowners Association, he is the Treasurer of Legislative District 9 Democrats.