



THE CITY OF BRUNSWICK MARYLAND

1 WEST POTOMAC STREET · BRUNSWICK, MARYLAND 21716 · (301) 834-7500

Distinguished Citizens biography for:

Bob & Jennifer Effler

Honored as Distinguished Citizens in 2025

Bob Effler was born in Florida, the oldest of seven siblings. His father worked for the local sanitation department and his mother was a waitress. When Bob graduated from high school in 1978, he joined the U.S. Air Force, where he would pursue a career for the next 23 years. After basic training in San Antonio, he was assigned to Japan as a Morse Code specialist. Future assignments took him to various locations: Mississippi as a military training instructor; Alaska, where he flew reconnaissance missions; Hawaii as the chief of readiness; and back to Florida in 1995 as the headquarters liaison for special operations. It was there that he met Jennifer.



Jennifer, coincidentally, was, like Bob, also born in Florida, but it would take 25 years and several moves until they met. She and her older sister were “military brats” as their father served in the U.S. Air Force. His assignments took the family from Florida, Germany, Mississippi and finally to Florida again. (She notes that, although she was once fluent in German, that is no longer the case.) She began working for State Farm Insurance in 1992 and has continued to work there up to the present (33 years).

It was while she was working at State Farm that she met Bob, who came to her office to transfer his insurance from Hawaii to Florida. They developed a friendly relationship, but it wasn’t until two years later that Bob was told that he had to attend the command’s Christmas party and he would need a date. Reluctantly, he said he would, and he invited Jennifer. He didn’t give her a kiss on their first date, but when he did give her a kiss a few weeks later while on a lunch outing, it was a one-pound Hershey Kiss. Six months later, Bob was transferred to Arizona. Jennifer came out to visit him two months later and they got engaged at the Grand Canyon. Three months after that, Jennifer paid another visit and they got married by a justice of the peace “wearing spurs and a cape.”

From Arizona, the Efflers moved to Laurel, Maryland, where Bob retired from the military service (in 2001). Still young and energetic, he began working for the Civil Service, which took him



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again to Florida and then back again to the Washington, D.C., area. He had assignments in multiple locations in the metropolitan area, and the Efflers started looking for a place where they could settle down. That place was a new development in Brunswick, Maryland, called Galyn Manor. They liked the model home and had one built just like it. They moved in in 2005.

Jennifer's community involvement began in 2008 when she was working as an election judge. She met Sandy Cox, and before she knew it she was on a team at the Brunswick Food Bank where she continues to volunteer, now as the Food Bank Manager. She has also been volunteering at the Brunswick Heritage Museum since that time. She is a member of the American Legion Auxiliary and has served as treasurer since 2011, "and probably will until I die." Children in town will recognize her as Santa's elf at Christmas time (with Bob standing beside her as "the Grinch"). Additionally, she and Bob have been part of a truck crew for Wreaths Across America, distributing wreaths at Arlington Cemetery every winter for the past 10 years.

Bob, in the meantime, has not been idle. In 2010, he received a letter inviting him to attend a meeting at the American Legion, a place he had never visited, where state Legion leaders were coming to discuss the possibility of the Post going into receivership. When he was brave enough to ask the visiting officials, "Just who are you?" someone pointed to him and said, "That's our man!". Returning home to his wife, who had instructed him "not to get involved," the new post commander realized that he had his work cut out for him. The next day, he was out there cutting the long-neglected grass. As Post Commander, the next two years consisted of "work-home-Legion-repeat." And he would serve a second term as Post Commander, as well as Vice Commander. In addition, he has served as County Commander and Vice Commander (over 7 posts), and Western Maryland District Commander and Vice Commander (over 17 posts).

Bob indicates that he has had 34 surgical operations (back, neck, knee, shoulder, ear, etc.), but this has never slowed him down. As busy as Bob and Jennifer have been, they have still found time to enjoy traveling and have taken many trips to places around the world, usually with friends. Bob finally retired from the Civil Service in 2022. He has two children from a previous marriage. His son Robbie recently retired as a Colonel in the U.S. Air Force and his daughter Crystal has a Ph.D. in Special Education. Bob and Jennifer have 6 grandchildren and a puppy named Stella.

The Mayor and Council and the Brunswick History Commission are proud to honor Bob and Jennifer Effler as Distinguished Citizens of Brunswick, Maryland.