

Bellevue
Public
Schools



Alumni
Spotlight



Major General Jason T Evans

Bellevue West, 1979

Welcome to our Alumni Spotlight Feature where we shine a light on some of the amazing alumni that have graduated from Bellevue Public Schools over the years! Know someone we should spotlight? Contact us at bps.alumni@bpsne.net and let us know.

1979 Bellevue West graduate Jason T Evans has a very strong bond with his father, John H Evans, Jr. It was this love, respect and admiration for his father that led Jason to pursue a military career. In recent years, Jason has achieved the rank of Army Major General.

Major General Evans recently took some time to answer a few of our questions.

What school(s) did you attend in Bellevue and what year did you graduate?

I attended Bellevue West and was part of the 2nd graduating class in the history of Bellevue West in 1979.

Could you name a couple of favorite teachers and share why they were your favorite?

My favorite teachers were Ms. French (English/Literature) and Mrs. Downs (History). They were both wonderful people who made learning interesting.

What is something memorable you could share from your time in school?

First, I married my High School sweetheart, the former Machel Handford who also graduated from Bellevue West in 1979.

The other memory is of Bellevue West. At that time, Bellevue West was a new school (opened in 1978); the interior design of the open class rooms (no doors) with glass walls, open common area combined with student lockers and a state of the art gymnasium was like no other school I had ever attended. I do believe the openness of the interior design fostered greater interactions and friendships amongst the students.

Did you have a favorite place to hang out – either at school or in town?

At Bellevue West, my favorite places to hang out were the common area and the lunch room during lunch period. Both locations were opportunities to either catch up with friends or your studies (particularly the common area). Away from school, one of the popular hang outs, particularly for military kids was the Capehart Teen Club.

What was your favorite class?

My favorite classes were English and History, because of Ms. French and Mrs. Downs. Both were very personable,



Jason married his high school sweetheart, Machel Handford (West, '79)



Chelle and Jason in the Commons Area, Catching Up on Their Studies Before Class

approachable, made learning interesting and they truly cared about their students.

When you were younger, what did you want to be when you grew up?

My father (John H. Evans Jr) was a career Airman, so having idolized my father, naturally I thought I would eventually serve in the Air Force. Ironically, I ended up in the Army. In the end, I did follow in my father's footsteps by serving in the Military.

Did you have other family that graduated from BPS?

Yes, both of my younger siblings; brother (Darryl Evans) and sister (Desiree Evans) are graduates of Bellevue West.

Do you still have family in the area?

Yes, my mother (Helen G. Evans) still resides in Bellevue.

Could you share a little bit about path your life has taken since your time as a student in Bellevue?

Early on I learned from my parents the value and importance of discipline, work ethic, regimentation and how to interact with people (especially my elders and people in positions of greater responsibility) in a respectful manner. My father was my first mentor and remained so until his passing (13 Jul 2016). His wisdom, problem solving skills and ability to effectively interact with people from all walks of life were key to my early development as a leader. My father was able to keep me focused on worrying about those things I can change and not worrying about those things I couldn't change. This turned out to be very sage advice for me, especially during my many leadership opportunities to lead complex organizations in the Army. Aside from my parents, my wife and kids, I owe a debt of gratitude for my success in the Army to the many exceptional Noncommissioned Officers (the backbone of the Army) Officers, Department of the Army Civilians and Soldiers I have had, and continue to have the privilege of serving with.





Could you share a couple stories of memorable experiences you have had during your military career?

Yes, my first deployment to Mogadishu, Somalia was the most challenging assignment for me professionally, as a junior officer. At that time, I was a Captain serving in a fairly senior position (Lieutenant Colonel) as the Joint Task Force Support Command, J1 (Primary Staff Personnel Officer), because my boss at the time was unable to deploy with us to Somalia. This opportunity turned out to be one of the most professionally rewarding experiences of my career.



The second most memorable experience and perhaps the most rewarding and humbling was my promotion to Brigadier General. Having the opportunity to share this milestone with my parents, my wife, kids and the rest of my extended Family was very special.

What advice would you give to students who are thinking of joining the military when they graduate?

As a member of the military, service to an idea and cause greater than oneself so that we Americans can continue to enjoy the freedoms our forefathers set forth in the constitution is an important endeavor.

Additionally, it is my belief that serving in the military is perhaps the best profession to realize your full potential as a person and a leader.



Which of your accomplishments in life are you most proud of?

Serving our great Army and Country.

What message would you like to give to current students in Bellevue Public Schools?

Stay focused on your goals; listen to and love your parents (their wisdom is priceless); work hard and strive to be the best at whatever you endeavor; be an optimist; be a problem solver and always treat people how you want to be treated.



Jason's Wife: Chelle,
Daughter: Nachele, Sons:
Jason II & Julian,
Grandchildren: Ta'Myah,
Rodney II, Cataleya Isabella
& Jason III

Links:

Story on Major General Evans from last year

[https://www.army.mil/article/186946/
evans_takes_command_of_us_army_human_resources_comm
and](https://www.army.mil/article/186946/evans_takes_command_of_us_army_human_resources_comm_and)

Story on Major General Evans' Promotion Ceremony at St.
Mary's Church in Bellevue

[https://www.omaha.com/sarpy/bellevue/west-grad-named-
army-major-general/article_e7db6455-55c1-57bo-8748-
e8d667d92695.html](https://www.omaha.com/sarpy/bellevue/west-grad-named-army-major-general/article_e7db6455-55c1-57bo-8748-e8d667d92695.html)

About Us

We hope you enjoyed our Alumni Spotlight! This is a recurring column on the Alumni Association Facebook Page. If you know of a Bellevue graduate that we should shine the spotlight on, please reach out to us and they will be considered for a future column. Continue to invite your friends and family to Like and Follow our Alumni Association page: <https://www.facebook.com/BPSAlumni>