



Bill Kelberlau (USN-RET) celebrating Veterans Day at the Sun City Veteran's Plaza with his wife Ronda McCauley.

Conservator of the Peace

Williamson County will be choosing a new Sheriff in the upcoming election. Candidate Bill Kelberlau says he believes he has a refreshing take on what being Sheriff means, noting, "The Sheriff is elected and must always work for the citizens, not the government."

Kelberlau, a sixth generation Texan, grew up in McAllen and has been in Williamson County since 1979. He describes himself as a long range thinker, and says, "I achieved my goal of early retirement while completing dual military and civilian careers, all while raising a family." Retirement was short lived for Kelberlau, however. Less than three weeks after officially retiring from a 28-year career which included Texas Instruments/Raytheon, his phone began to ring. Thus began a consulting career in which he was tasked to solve complex problems for companies, a goal he says he accomplished, delivering the requested solutions in about one third of the time allotted.

"Running for Sheriff is an elected law enforcement position, and people often ask us, as candidates, about our law enforcement background." Kelberlau explains that his career has intersected many domains of law, pointing to his experience in Naval Intelligence. "I was educated in the Uniform Code of Military Justice, tactical intelligence, international law, and Naval Criminal Investigative Services, plus experience with the Drug Enforcement Agency in international operations," he elaborates, asserting that this experience affords him a view of law enforcement as a seasoned Naval Intelligence Officer who protected and defended all citizens of the United States from major threats to freedom and liberty.

While most of his career experience has been engaged in the 'big picture' of law enforcement, at one point he was involved in a child molestation case in north Texas. With the case dragging, Kelberlau says he made recommendations to the Sheriff's department, and, "immediately after, they acted on that information; and 48 hours later, the case was closed."

"Being a constitutional Sheriff will require me to always be available to the citizens, as well as the employees of the jail and law enforcement operations," says Kelberlau. "Since the twelfth century in England, little has changed about what was then referred to as the shire reeve. He was the ultimate authority, enforcer, and protector of the shire and its rulers. With the successful revolution in our country, people became the sovereign. Today, a sheriff should be recognized as the defender of everyone's liberties."

"The U.S. Constitution has left the requirements of a sheriff virtually unchanged," he continues. "Although we pronounce it differently, the responsibility is to protect the people and interests of the 'shire', in this country, called a county." Kelberlau plans to use his leadership experience and success, locally, nationally and internationally, to bring the office of the Sheriff to the level of teamwork and esprit de corps that he says it should have always had. "Every employee matters. The citizens, our bosses, must and will also be engaged in this effort. It's all about, 'we the people'," Kelberlau asserts with emphasis and passion.

As sheriff, Kelberlau says he will employ the latest in technology "to enhance our efforts in the pursuit of criminals without sacrificing freedoms and liberties. No one should be forced to give up freedoms and liberties to be safe." He points to his experience with technologies at Texas Instruments and Raytheon "that allow pursuit of criminals with greatly reduced risk to deputies and citizens alike," and says he looks forward to the opportunity to introduce this technology to Court Commissioners. "This technology will include accomplishing law enforcement goals, while decreasing risk to law enforcement personnel. Many of these technologies are being used on the border now, and result in a 100% capture rate. I am proud this technology is part of a systems patent that I and five others developed at Raytheon."



Bill and Ronda at a Constitutional Rally in September.

Kelberlau hopes that it's strikingly clear that, if he is elected, he will work for the citizens of Williamson County, and that he will defend the both the Constitution of Texas and the United States Constitution as well. Kelberlau says Richard Mack of the Constitutional Sheriffs & Peace Officers Association offers his concurrence with this position and his endorsement, saying, "I have thoroughly vetted Bill and he is my choice for Sheriff."

Kelberlau concludes with this message to Williamson County citizens: when it comes to your rights and property, he will stand on principle. "I will not 'go along to get along'. I will make the tough leadership decisions that I have done so many times in both my military and civilian career, risking career and reputation to do what is right. I have proven myself at the highest levels of management, repeatedly being selected by my peers to lead when the stakes were high and the challenges daunting."