



**Stephen Neal Sirois**  
**“Speronis”**

After SHS, I attended Manatee Jr. College and University of South Florida where I earned a BA in Management. Worked for Kiekhaefer Corp (Mercury Marine) in Sarasota and at Lake X. Raced boats on Mercury factory team until entering USAF pilot training in 1970 followed by Fighter Interceptor School. Next 6 years on USAF/Florida Air National

***“Life is good in Atlantic Beach”***

Guard (FANG) active duty air defense alert in F-102 & F-106. Next 24 years FANG Federal Civil Service as pilot/flight instructor/flight examiner pilot. After 10 years in F-106 I found myself laying on the floor trying to pass kidney stone. That sure was “fun”...Yikes!!! That ended my Fighter Pilot life. Continued to fly transport aircraft (C-131, C-130, C-26) for next 14 years. Retired from FANG in 1998. “Worked” at Jacksonville Museum of Science & History for 3 years. Joined Duval County Public Schools as Safety Inspector (Nice retirement “work”). Attended Florida Fire College & earned certification as Fire Safety Inspector. Writing this from my office 5/16/16. Have Lived in Atlantic Beach Florida for the last 45 years. Eventually my ashes will reside for eternity in the Atlantic Ocean sand dunes just 1/5 mile from my house.

In late 1973 I met Iris in Atlantic Beach FL. My life changed to wonderful from that meeting and continues so to this very moment. We married in May 1975 and 3 years later the first of our 2 daughters entered this world. We now have 2 beautiful granddaughters. Iris spent the next 20 years as a stay at home mother. During that time she earned her degree and certification as a Registered Nurse. She worked Oncology for several years and then switched to Hospice Nursing with Community Hospice of Northeast Florida where she continued for 13 years. In 2015 she retired from formal job to help me deal with some health issues. She is the most wonderful human being I have EVER encountered in my entire life.

I am a 2 time cancer survivor and life has been very good to me. When I attended SHS 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion in 2012 I was 3 months after major surgery. Too many of our classmates had passed on to the next life and that realization really opened my eyes. Many of those had been good and true friends and I continue to miss them.....BUT... seeing all of you at that gathering was wonderful. Continue to enjoy the good life as I assure you that I will.