



THOUGHTS

Newsletter Issue No. 23

February 2018

"A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away..." - no scratch that!

Well, it appears that it's my turn to share a little bit about myself and my past. Though it will be hard to top my predecessors Dave and Don; I'll give it a try!

As a "baby boomer" born in the 1950's (over half a century ago - yuck☹) in Yonkers, NY (a city just north of the Big Apple), I was brought up around a large extended Italian/Irish-American family. I grew up with two brothers (I'm the cute one on the left), numerous aunts, uncles, and 35+ cousins.



I attended Saunders Trades and Technical High School majoring in architecture and carpentry and was sure that I was going to be the next Frank Lloyd Wright; so much for that dream! The closest I came however was after graduating high school, two of my instructors asked me to work for them building houses. Through that summer and into the winter I helped build and renovate houses for a living; one of which found its way onto the cover of the "Architectural Digest" magazine. However, soon after working in the "trades" I realized I wanted something more and on a lark (and much to my mother's dismay) in 1973 decided to join the Air Force during the tail end of the Vietnam War.

After basic training and a year of tech school, I was stationed at Malmstrom AFB, MT as an Electro-mechanical technician supporting the Minuteman ICBM program. While I consider that move one of the most important decisions in setting the path for the rest of my life, remaining in the Air Force was not something I wanted to do, so I turned back to civilian life. During that time I married my childhood sweetheart Kathy, whom I met at age 15 at the "Our Lady of the Rosary" Teen Club. We have been married for close to 44 years and have two wonderful children (Michael & Jennifer) and two terrific grandchildren (Timothy & Dylan) (maybe one or two more to come — fingers crossed). After leaving the Air Force in 1977, Kathy and I moved back to Upstate New York to a small town called

In This Issue

[A Long Time Ago](#)
[Gym Additions](#)
[Synaptেক Health](#)
[Employee Anniversaries](#)
[Q4 Objective Share](#)
[Year-End Tax Forms](#)
[Synaptেক Careers](#)

Kudos

**WELL
DONE**

Our DLA customer would like to commend [Dustin Kramer](#) and [Jim Brown](#) for being exceptional members of the team. The customer went on to praise the duo for being highly motivated, selfless, and committed.

Thanks for all your hard work!

If you have someone you would like to thank or recognize, email your message to news@synaptেকcorp.com

Q4 Objective Share

2017 was a monumental year for Synaptেক on many fronts, but especially quality-wise. We transitioned from ISO 9001:2008 to 9001:2015, became NIST 800:171 compliant and we worked toward ISO 27001:2013 compliance as well. Each of these certifications help Synaptেক become a stronger employer and contractor.

We are very proud of our employees' accomplishments this quarter. The ISO inbox received 12 employee compliments from customers which is a 2017 record!

Hudson. I worked there for three years with my two brothers selling shoes, yes, for those of you old enough to remember, I was the original "Al Bundy"; but I won't bore you with that! So how did I get from selling shoes to IT and Government contracting? Let's just say fate!

Because of my Air Force background, I landed a job in 1980 with Data Design Laboratories in Washington State supporting the Trident Submarine Program at the Naval Base Kitsap - Bangor. There I supported development of training for the Trident submarine crew. The training ranged from Fire Control and Shipboard Navigation to actual Trident Missile systems training. After three years, my customer at NAVSEA in Crystal City asked me to come back to support him directly here in the Trident Program Management (PMO) office. I would spend the following years with General Physics, a nuclear power engineering company, managing a large team of subject matter experts and instructional designers developing the majority of training used on the Trident along with Navy F-18 simulator training.

In 1998 I went to work for American Systems Corporation in Chantilly, Virginia. As Vice President, Executive Director, I led their computer-based/simulator training and application development Business Unit. Of the many contracts I managed there, the one that I consider the most challenging and rewarding was winning and working a \$25M contract with the Army Criminal Investigation Command (CID) developing their case management system (Army Criminal Investigation/Criminal Intelligence (ACI2). Although that was back in 2004, many of the modules are still in use today, which is both satisfying and a little scary since it was based on 2004 client-server technology.

In 2008 through a relationship I had established at CID with the CIO who had moved to a senior position at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I decided to take a position in the government (after much coaxing and instance by him) as the Disaster Recovery Program Manager. Although my tenure was short (2+ Years) I did lead some interesting projects including representing the NRC on OMB's Federal Data Center Consolidation Initiative (FDCCI) and the initial design of the agencies state-of-the-art data center. Once again, as interesting as being a Government worker was, I decided to get back out into the private sector in 2010.

After leaving NRC I took a Chief Operating Officer (COO) position at n-Link Corporation, a small IT firm located in Alexandria, VA. It was there where my path crossed with Synaptex (Kam Jinnah) while a subcontractor to n-Link on a wireless job at the National Defense University (NDU). This relationship later led to winning and working together on the Department of Commerce (DOC) HCHB IT support contract. It was through this initial relationship that I eventually found my way to Synaptex in 2015.

As I write this journey through how I got here, I realize that life and career choices are often based on hard work, relationships, fate, and just plain luck. At the end of the day, although it is sometimes hard work, I am very happy that all these factors led me here to Synaptex. In the short time I have been here, I have seen significant growth and see that we are poised for even bigger things to happen over the next few years. I see two key factors contributing to this growth; sound management and strategically focused leadership and dedicated employees at all levels contributing the ideas and hard work that keeps customers coming back to Synaptex.

-Ray Caruso

Synaptex Gym Additions

We're pleased to announced that we have added even more gym locations to our current Gold's Gym plan! Signing up for the gym plan can be completed by clicking on the "Health and Wellness" tab on the employee portal. From here you will need to click on the "Gold's Gym Benefit" tab and fill out the appropriate paperwork. You can also follow this [link](#) to sign-up or view the updated list of gyms!



Richard Shumway's Retirement



Timecard compliance slightly increased during Q4 and management evaluated company-wide processes very strong, each over 4.5/5! Review the [Q4 objective](#) for more detail.

Please send any feedback or questions to ISO@synaptexcorp.com.

2017 Year-End Tax Forms

W-2's have been released! To view your electronic W-2, select "My Payroll" on the left side of the screen and click on the tab that says "Year-End Tax Forms". From here you'll be able to access your W-2.



**REFER
YOUR FRIENDS.
GET
REWARDED.**

DLA

IT Support Specialist- Various Locations
Senior Systems Administrator- Various Locations
Task Order Project Manager- Various Locations

DOI/BSEE- New Orleans, LA

J2EE Systems Software Engineer
Principal Software Engineer

DTRA- Ft. Belvoir, VA

Network Engineer
Systems Engineer
Share Point Developer

ETM- Crystal City, VA

Principal Analyst
TACLANE Engineer
Sr. Information Security Analyst

Synaptex would like to congratulate Richard Shumway on his retirement! Thank you for your time working for Synaptex and all that you've accomplished. We wish you the best of luck on your next adventure!



Mr. Shumway had over 35 years of service as both a government employee and a contractor at the Defense Logistics Agency. He was recognized on multiple occasions for his exceptional service and dedication for DLA. Mr. Shumway supported wireless initiatives at DLA beginning with the Psion wireless device pictured above. When the Psion network was retired many of these units were kept as spares. In recognition of Mr. Shumway's service, staff members signed one of the Psion wireless access points so that he would fondly remember his time at DLA. As Richard enters retirement, this is not the end but rather the beginning.

Richard---are you sure Kamran can't talk you out of retirement one more time?

Synaptex Health

Winter is primetime flu season, and this season is hitting harder than ever! Have you received your flu shot? Synaptex Anthem members can receive their flu shots at no cost - visit your doctor or certain pharmacies to take advantage of this offer.

Did you know Anthem offers FREE online appointments with a board-certified doctor? Visit LiveHealth Online and see the full benefit list [here!](#)

FTC

Exchange Administrator

Stennis Space Center, Mississippi

Applications Systems Analyst/Programmer Lead
Software Systems Engineer (Lead & Intermediate)

Please email your referral resumes to:

careers@synaptexcorp.com
or visit [Synaptex Careers](#)

Inclement Weather and Safety



Employees are encouraged to use discretion in deciding whether they can safely remain at or commute to/from work. If you are unable to work due to Government closure or travel conditions you are to use Paid Time Off/Personal Leave (PTO) for time missed. You are required to consult with your supervisor or Program Manager for any absence, late arrival and/or early departure in inclement weather situations.

We want to hear from you!

Send us your news – babies, weddings, pets, trips and vacations, graduations, kudos to coworkers...

Send all submissions to news@synaptexcorp.com



LinkedIn

Feeling under the weather? Here's a Quick Recipe for Chicken Noodle Soup!

3 chicken breasts, chopped
2 teaspoons butter
1 cup celery, chopped
1 cup carrots, chopped
½ cup onion, chopped
½ teaspoon thyme
1 teaspoon poultry seasoning
8 oz. egg noodles
Salt and pepper to taste



In a large saucepan over medium heat, melt butter. Cook onion and celery in butter until just tender, 5 minutes. Pour in chicken and chicken broth and stir in chicken, noodles, carrots, thyme, poultry seasoning. Bring to the boil, then reduce heat and simmer 20 minutes before serving.

"Follow" us for the latest news and info!



Employee Anniversaries

6 Years

Tina Wan

3 Years

Toni Fisher
Fred Taylor

2 Years

Martin Ensinger
Kaitlyn Jenkins



Welcome New Employees!

Robert Bennett, DLA JETS
John Bryant, DLA JETS
Ryan Duff, DLA JETS
Matthew Ellersick, DOJ
Eric Emrich, VA Wireless
Justin Faciane, VA Wireless
Valerie Fronczak, DLA JETS
Jeremy Jones, DLA JETS
Scott Kaufman, VA Wireless
Nick Mastrangeli, HQ
John Naeve, VA Wireless
Elzey Pounds, DLA JETS
Jared Shapiro, HQ
Kay Stephens, DTRA
Rodney Stewart, DLA JETS
La'Shara Wright, DLA JETS