



Robert W, Irish Jr.

Robert W. Irish, Jr., discovered his interest in the military while at Thomas Jefferson High School, where he attained the rank of Cadet LTC. He entered the University of Texas at Arlington (then Arlington State College) in 1961. He was a member of the Pistol Team that defeated the United States Military Academy in 1962/63 and became the National Intercollegiate Pistol Champion. In the ASC Cadet Corps, he attained the rank of Cadet Major and served as the Cadet Battalion S3. He graduated in 1966 in Mathematics, was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Signal Corps, and was assigned to the Army Reserve.

The following month Bob entered Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University, graduating in 1969 with a Master of Divinity. He was ordained a minister in the United Methodist Church. Following his graduation he was called to active duty for two years. He completed the Basic Signal Officer course at Fort Gordon, GA. He was then assigned to the 51st Signal Battalion in Korea, where he served as Company Commander of HHC and President of the Do Bong Orphanage until he was released from active duty in June 1971.

Realizing his skills and gifts lay more in the world of technology, Bob resigned his position in the church in 1972 and entered the business world. During the next 34 years, he went from an electronic salesman to the head of several large companies. After going from salesman to Executive Vice President of Sales and Marketing at Comspec, he resigned in 1984 to form his own very successful company, Intermec Southwest. He sold it in 1988. He then joined Intermec, Inc., as Vice President of the Systems Group. In 1985 he was asked to join the

founding board at UTA's Automation and Robotics Research Institute, where he served until he retired in 1990.

Thinking he was through with business, he found out business was not through with him. Companies sought him out for leadership and board positions. He became Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Exchange Data Corporation in 1991, served as interim CEO of Secure Safes in 1995, then Chief Operating Officer of FAS Technologies through 2001. From 2001 through 2005 he was Chair of TEC International, an organization mentoring CEOs, helping them avoid pitfalls in growing and running their companies. He has served as Chief Operating Officer of Controls International from 2004 to the present.

As it turned out, the military was not through with him either. In 2004 he was selected by the Secretary of Defense as one of 43 executives to tour military bases in Europe, the Mideast, and Africa. In the Joint Civilian Orientation Conference he received high-level briefing on the latest efforts to combat terrorism in sensitive areas of the world. Following his return, he shared his experiences and information with many organizations. In 2005 his business book, *The Entrepreneur's Compass*, was published.

He continues to serve the United Methodist Church as a lay person. However, the project closest to his heart is the Center for the Advanced Study and Practice of Evangelism at Southern Methodist University. He led a strategic planning effort for the Center in the early '90s and is now a member of the Executive Board.

Bob has two children, and his wife Eddy has three. Bob's children are Shannon Benton of Austin and John Irish of Dallas. Eddy's are Thomas and Tim Manders of Dallas, and Christi Stanley of Burbank, California. Their blended family has eight grandchildren.