

MAJOR GENERAL KENT HILLHOUSE:

A Life of Service, Leadership, & Community



MAJOR GENERAL KENT HILLHOUSE (RET.) was born in Weedpatch, California, one of three boys, and spent his childhood in Smyrna, Georgia, and later in Silicon Valley, where his father worked for Lockheed. Even as a young boy, Kent showed an uncommon drive. At ten, he launched a lawnmowing business with a neighbor, and as a teenager he spent his summers working at Lockheed.

Kent attended San Jose State, where academics took a back seat to hard work. He held jobs as a hasher in a sorority, worked in the school library, and followed a longstanding Valley tradition of summer shifts in the canneries. After graduating—and completing four years of ROTC—he was commissioned and called to active duty.

Following training at Fort Knox and Fort Bragg, Kent deployed to Vietnam as a second lieutenant in the cavalry. He spent twelve months commanding a platoon in combat, returning home as a first lieutenant decorated with two Silver Stars, a Bronze Star, and a Purple Heart.

Coming back to an antiwar climate was difficult; veterans were often met with hostility, yet Kent continued to serve in the Reserves while beginning his civilian career at Standard Oil. During this time, he welcomed two daughters, Ashley and Kendall.

Kent later moved into sales and marketing at Signetics,

spending a decade in the integrated circuits industry and ultimately becoming the company's top salesman. His next chapter began when his neighbor, fellow Vietnam veteran Dennis Chambers, recruited him to CPS, a commercial real estate firm. Both men believed deeply that military service instills lifelong discipline and leadership. Despite numerous mergers and acquisitions, Kent still holds his original seat and has earned significant recognition, including Industrial Broker of the Year and the Michael Murphy Award for service to both the industry and the broader community.

At 42, Kent was promoted to Brigadier General—the youngest general since World War II.

Known for his leadership, loyalty, and patriotism, Kent has built and sustained a wide network of friends and colleagues. He continues to give back, serving as President of the Los Gatos Veterans Memorial since 2014 and will be moving to an advisory position on the board in July of this year. He lives in Santa Clara with his wife, Carla Lindorff, and their two rescue dogs, Cassie and Lainey, all of whom benefit from his steady patience and generous spirit.



SEPTEMBER 11, 2026

9/11 AT 25: KEEPERS OF THE FLAME

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Victims, Survivors, and Heroes at
The Flame of Liberty Memorial*



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