

- Growing up:

Grew up in South San Jose, moved in 1992 when working in the army

Worked in the army as a personnel information manager/specialist

- Aspirations:

As a little kid, wanted to be a baseball player; growing up, wasn't as sure

- What would be missed most about east side San Jose:

The food is the thing that would be missed the most about east side San Jose – Vietnamese and Mexican food, which can't be found anywhere else

- Reason for teaching:

Taught at Mount Pleasant because of the location

Was already a long-term sub at other nearby schools

Liked the atmosphere of the MP campus – something that other campuses didn't have

- Moved to the east side:

1993

- Memorable experiences teaching:

Ex-gang students were inspired by learning at school

- Life at home:

Grew up with a brother; area (south San Jose) was not as culturally diverse as the East Side

- Upbringing:

Went to Santa Teresa high school, which was 70 or 80% white (with just a handful of African-American and Hispanic students). Welcome change of pace living in the east side, and had a bigger appreciation for the diversity given the culturally indifferent upbringing

- Vivid childhood memory:

Black power movement for Angela Davis (was six or seven at the time) – played around in the grass with other children: one of the rallies in Berkeley, a woman walked up to the children and told them that “when the police come, run this way” – terrified (if the police are coming are we doing something bad?)

- Heroes (growing up and now):

Growing up, had athletes for heroes; later on in life, had political figures/writers/artists to look up to: Malcolm X, Hemingway, other civil rights workers

- Notable differences from childhood and now in San Jose:

One change that’s happened in San Jose – Evergreen area grew bigger and bigger (living in Evergreen area has a certain connotation but now it was different)