

Eugene "Gene" Pack Bio

Through Education...We Will Rebuild!

My Story-My Foundation

I was born in Lake Charles, Louisiana in 1951 where the foundation of my life was laid. I attended Sacred Heart Elementary School and graduated from W. O. Boston High School. I was taught by my family and community leaders that a good education or learning a skill could be the ticket to a better life. So, with this as a foundation, I started to build my life as an adult.

While in high school, I developed a strong interest in music so I joined a high school band--we were pretty good.

We opened for artists such as *James Brown, Brook Benton, Earth Wind and Fire, and Johnny Taylor*. Playing in that band helped me to value teamwork.

Fight-or-Flight

After graduating from high school, I wanted to develop my interest in music, but duty called. I was drafted by the United States Army.

Many guys from the States fled to Canada to avoid fighting in Viet Nam, but running away was not in my nature. So, I answered my country's call to duty. It was my first experience with a Fight-or-Flight decision.

I did my basic training at Fort Polk, Louisiana. I was later assigned to Fort Sill, Oklahoma where I completed A.I.T. Training in the Armored Division.

I received additional training in Fort Campbell, Kentucky, and was soon deployed to Da Nang, Viet Nam. I was a soldier in the 196th Infantry Brigade. After completing a 2-year tour on active duty, I was honorably discharged.

While in the military, I was introduced to and developed a passion for the martial arts. They started me on a life-long journey of building self-discipline, self-awareness, and self-development.

Building on My Military Foundation from the Empowerment of College

After I returned home, I enrolled in college at Grambling State University in Grambling, Louisiana. However, I found out that I was not cut out to earn a typical 4-year liberal arts degree like my wife. She attended Houston Community College and earned an Associate Degree then transferred to the University of Houston where she earned a Bachelors, a Masters, and a Ph.D.--all in English!

After Grambling, I discovered a second passion—cars. This passion started me on a career in the automobile industry.

My first job was with a paint and body shop where I was mentored by people who wanted me to learn the industry. My interest in body work led my brother and me to start an automobile restoration company. Though I closed the company, I continue to restore cars as a hobby--even to this day.

I have spent my professional career in the automobile industry finally retiring as a wholesale auto broker.

I have experienced the real joy that comes from helping a young person get their first car, or a young couple who thought they did not have enough money to buy a car to fit the needs of their family.

I have helped church groups and non-profits with transportation for their ministries and missions, and through it all, I was able to build a career that took care of my family.

I've Built a Home in Houston

In search of better opportunities, I left Louisiana and headed to Texas in 1975 and landed in Houston. I met and married Juluette Bartlett in 1991.

Juliette is the love of my life. She has taught me many things about life, such as how to be a good husband, how to be a better leader, and how to better appreciate working on a team.

As I said earlier, Juliette earned an Associate Degree, a Bachelors, a Masters, and Ph.D. She is retired now, but during her career, she was a college professor and later was appointed Dean of the School of Education in her last university position.

Together, we graduated our 3 daughters from college and have seen them go on to have great careers. Tragically though, we lost a daughter in service to her country and a son to gun violence here in Houston.

Juliette and I founded a community-based non-profit to help at-risk families in crisis. It was called **Family Assistance Center** and was in Houston. We went on to help found a national organization to help build a network of crisis centers. It has merged and grown with hundreds of locations in cities across the country. Though we are no longer associated with it, we are proud and grateful to have helped build a network that is working to re-build families every day.

In addition to my love of cars and the martial arts, I developed a third passion, motorcycles--in particular, Harley Davidson Motorcycles.

I am a member of the **HOGS: The HARLEY – DAVIDSON International Motorcycle Club**. I started riding Harleys in 1969 and today I own a beautiful 2009 Harley Davidson "Fatboy", which I love to take out with Juliette hugging me tight.

I am an **8 Degree Black Belt** in Stevens Karate and a Master in Tae Kwan Do, Aikido, Judo and Japanese Sho Da Kwan. I am honored to have been inducted into the Black Belt Hall of Fame.

Community service is part of my character.

I have been a Harris County Precinct Chairman for Precinct Number 286 for 24 years.

I served 4 years as District Chairman of Harris County Senate District 13.

I served for 8 years on the Southwest Crossing Homeowners Association.

I served a 4-year term as Executive Director of LEARN, a non-profit organization to assist families in crisis.

I founded and operated **POWER PACK Karate** to teach young boys and girls the virtues of self-development, self-discipline, and self-awareness. Today, I operate **POWER PACK PRODUCTIONS (PPP)** which is committed to helping veterans who are gifted in music land jobs. I learned that so many veterans can earn money in the music industry if they are able to get help with the administrative side of the business.

The HCC has a great Veterans Center dedicated to streamlining and fast-tracking certification programs. I hope to help build on what the Board of Trustees and the Chancellor have started, which I believe is a great effort to better serve our veterans.

The Story of Us Rebuilding-Harvey Changed Everything

I filed to run for the Houston Community College Board of Trustees Position IX on a Monday and Hurricane Harvey hit our beloved city on Friday of the same week. It was not just a weather event, it was a gut-punch to the economy of Houston.

We must work together so that people like me who came to Houston years ago in search of an opportunity will still come. That is why my filing has become a call to duty once again.

The Story of Rebuilding Now!

We don't have time to wait to see if Harvey will have a negative impact on our economy and on the Houston Community College 's mission to prepare students to get jobs in Houston.

I am ready and grateful for the opportunity to serve and to use my life experiences to assist our city in rebuilding its institutions, especially the Houston Community College.

HCC Board Members must act now to limit the impact of Harvey on students, staff, and on falling revenue from lower property values while

increasing its outreach to targeted potential students such as veterans, single parents, and new arrivals to our state.

I am ready to take my life-experiences to the HCC Board to serve you. Please vote for me, Gene Pack on November 7, 2017, for Houston Community College Board of Trustee, District IX (District 9).

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