

Jim and Miriam Hill

Jim and Miriam Hill have certainly lived a full life. This active couple took a few minutes to share a little of their history and what they like most about Clearwater. After serving in the Navy and later working for IBM as well as teaching at the college level, Jim also volunteered with the Clearwater Police Department for the last 14 years. Jim said, "I do it to stay familiar with what is happening in Clearwater and to do my small part in making our wonderful city an even better place to live. As volunteers we don't do much on the crime side of policing; however, we help on the safety of our citizens policing role. We redirect traffic after a crash or a fire, we help disabled vehicles, and we help find small children that are lost. Clearwater Police take missing small children seriously, often assigning 15 units to the search. I have been blessed to find two children. Both were very upset and ready to be found."

Miriam, too, has stayed incredibly active in her "retirement." "When I retired, after helping to raise our three successful children, plus teaching elementary school and college classes for several years, I pursued my interest in writing after Jim and I had written and published our guidebook, *Fabulous Florida*.

"When I won First Place for Inspirational Writing, while attending the Southeastern Writers Conference in Georgia, one of the judges urged me to submit my winning story to *Chicken Soup for the Bride's Soul*, titled "Built on Love" the story of our daughter who scheduled her wedding at our Clearwater home while it was a construction site. It was the first of 30 of my stories that have been published in *Chicken Soup for the Soul* books.

"After I traveled to Costa Rica with 20 USF students to study Spanish there for six weeks, the group celebrated our trip at a party in a female student's home. I met her father who was the Editor of *Poynter Online* for the respected Poynter Institute. He invited me to attend a conference on narrative journalism at Harvard and three of my stories about the conference experience appeared on *Poynter Online*.

"My writing BIO includes: *Reader's Digest*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, *St. Petersburg Times*, *Sacramento Bee*, *Grit Magazine*, and *Poynter Online*. My submission titled "Fishing For a Miracle" is about our son whose bait net accidentally sank while fishing in our boat. He was upset and prayed he could retrieve it with the hook on his fishing pole. After three tries, he witnessed a miracle when he reeled in the net, with the hook supporting the metal ring at the top. This story received Honorable Mention for Inspirational Writing in a *Writer's Digest* Writing Competition."

How did you come to live in Clearwater?

J: We've been here 55 years.

M: We arrived after Jim's service in the Navy and he began working for IBM. Later, Jim retired after 30 years of teaching computer courses at the Clearwater campus of St. Petersburg College. He was honored with the Professor Emeritus award.

How do you enjoy your retirement?

J: I walk/run 2.5 miles each morning, read, and maintain our properties.

M: I walk, bike, and kayak; I read, do gardening and home and yard maintenance, plus I enjoy close relationships with our three children and their families, including nine grandchildren! We are also proud of our 59 years of marriage.

What do you like most about Clearwater?

Both: The weather and the views of the Intercostal.

What's a favorite Clearwater memory?

Both: Running the Turkey Trot each year with our kids.

What is your favorite place to visit in our city?

Both: Watching sunsets along the Intercostal.

Favorite local sports team? Jim likes the Lightning

What are you most proud of?

Both: Our three successful adult kids: a daughter who's a rocket scientist with an aerospace company; a daughter who's an anesthesiologist; a son who's a Coast Guard Captain and an engineering manager at a defense contractor.

Favorite holiday and why?

Both: Christmas and the decorations.

I know we live in "paradise" but do you have a favorite vacation spot?

Both: Coincidentally, the name of our lovely home is "Paradise." We've traveled to many parts of the world and realized our favorite place is...home.