

Kurt A. Sanftleben – Speaker’s Resume



Kurt A. Sanftleben has been a seller of rare books and manuscripts since 1998 and holds a proficiency certificate in the field after completing over 20 courses from Harvard University and the Rare Book School at the University of Virginia. He is a member of the Antiquarian Booksellers’ Association of America, the Ephemera Society, the Manuscript Society, and the American Stamp Dealers’ Association. Kurt writes a regular column about Paper Americana, “The Ephemera Corner,” for *La Posta: The Journal of American Postal History*, and has provided articles for and presentations to the American Topical Association, a national thematic philatelic society.

Kurt holds a doctorate from the College of William and Mary with a dual concentration in Higher Education and Business Administration. Other studies include degrees, diplomas, and certifications in Education, the Humanities, Library Science, Logistics Management, Military Medicine, Military Science, and National Security Studies.

Kurt is a retired Army officer who spent most of his career in field organizations including the command of units up to the battalion level in armored and infantry divisions. He served as a unified command staff officer during Desert Storm and coordinated the deployment of the hospital ship, USNS *Comfort* from Baltimore and two 500-bed Fleet Hospitals from storage facilities in Norway. As a cadre member of a standing joint task force, he served in ashore and afloat operations and exercises in Iceland and the Caribbean. Kurt also served as the director of materiel management for Walter Reed Army Medical Center, the Army’s flagship medical treatment facility. His capstone assignment was as a professor of military medicine at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, the federal medical school that produces uniformed physicians for the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Public Health Service.

Following his military retirement in 1994, Kurt served as a consultant to the Joint Staff, the Public Health Service, and the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations. He was also a co-founder of Virginia’s residential high school drop-out recovery program, the Commonwealth Challenge Academy in Virginia Beach, a testbed for what has become a successful nationwide program sponsored by the National Guard Bureau and the departments of education, social services, and military affairs in over forty states.

Upon departing Commonwealth Challenge in 1998, Kurt became the Director of the Marine Corps Research Center at Quantico, which in addition to hosting several thinktanks included the Library of the Marine Corps, the U. S. Marine Corps Archives, and the Marine Corps Conference Center. There, he oversaw the development of systems to provide worldwide reference support to Marine Corps commands, academic support services to all levels within the Marine Corps’ professional education system, and research assistance to support the development of emerging concepts, doctrine, strategy, and tactics by the Marine Corps Combat Development Command. Simultaneously, Kurt served as the Vice-President for Research and Instructional Support at the Marine Corps University and played a key role in all initiatives, processes, and decisions related to accreditation, strategic planning, resource allocation, facility development, capital programming, and institutional research. He retired from the federal civilian service in 2012.

After Kurt and his wife, Gail, moved into the Atlantic Shores retirement community at Virginia Beach in 2021, his interest in elder-care was piqued by the astonishing differences he noticed in the aging process of its residents. This intensified during discussions with prospective residents and their family members as one of the community’s Resident Ambassadors. In response, Kurt became a Certified Senior Advisor and now provides limited pro bono assistance to seniors and their families with regard to the Social Aspects of Aging, Living Arrangements & Lifestyles, Health & Wellness, Eldercare, Estate & End-of-Life Planning, and Ethical Concerns including Senior Fraud & Elder Abuse.

Kurt is a Member Emeritus of the College of William and Mary School of Education Dean’s Council, a Past-President of the Association of 1775, a Past-Chairman of the Southeast Chapter of the Antiquarian Booksellers’ Association of America, and a current member of the National Eagle Scout Association, the 31st Infantry Regiment Association and the Society of Certified Senior Advisors.