



The band That shakes The southland
TIGER BAND
 MILITARY APPRECIATION DAY TIGER BAND ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

BY TIWI PARE

Blair Berkland has spent more time than most in uniform. Berkland attended Clemson from 1971-75 and sported the Tiger Band uniform on most Saturdays throughout the football season. After graduating in December 1975, he traded in the orange and pur-

ple for a U.S. Air Force uniform.

He graduated with a bachelor's degree in industrial management as a member of Clemson's ROTC program. It was

midway through his college career that he realized that if he planned his coursework schedule appropriately, he could stay at Clemson an extra semester. Why would someone want an additional semester of classes? Well, for Berkland, it was for Tiger Band.

Berkland and his friend stretched their classes so they could continue their studies for a ninth semester solely for playing with "The Band That Shakes the Southland" one last season. That football season, he traveled to every football game with trombone in hand playing his favorite Tiger Rag gliss.

When asked what his favorite memory of Tiger Band, Berkland could not decide on one, but he reflected that it was the "overall enjoyment and fun"

TIGER BAND



SHAKIN' THE SOUTHLAND

with the friends he met. He admitted it was hard work practicing and performing, but that's what fostered the unique "camaraderie" he shared with his lifelong friends.

Joining the Air Force required Berkland to put the trombone down for a while. Throughout his four and a half years in active duty, Berkland traveled to many places from California to Honduras to Saudi Arabia, serving as a medical service corps officer. Afterwards, he pursued an MBA at Auburn and Georgia, and after graduating in 1984, he landed a great position with an oil company in Texas.

Berkland is an Eagle Scout, and it was through his volunteer position as scout master in Texas that he got involved with the Air National Guard and later went into the Air Force Reserve.

Berkland was called to work after 9/11 and was relocated to San Antonio, Texas to the largest hospital in the Air Force. Since his move to Texas, Berkland has continued to follow Clemson football and still attends games every once in a while.

On this day as we recognize the millions of heroes who have served our

CLEMSON ALMA MATER

Where the Blue Ridge yawns its greatness
 Where the Tigers play
 Here the sons of dear old Clemson
 Reign supreme away.

CHORUS

Dear old Clemson, we will triumph
 And with all our might
 That the Tiger's roar may echo
 O'er the mountain height.

country, it is people like Berkland whose dedication and selflessness inspire fellow Tigers and band members alike to pursue lives of service.

We thank you, Blair Berkland, for your service, both in Tiger Band and in the U.S. Air Force. Go Tigers and God bless the USA! 🐾



BLAIR BERKLAND

