

Providence native Frank Lennon is a West Point graduate, a decorated Vietnam veteran and former Green Beret whose corporate experience was in commercial aviation. He holds an M.A. in International Relations from Boston University. For 20 years he ran his own marketing, promotion and publishing business. He has also been an analyst on MSNBC for terrorism and special operations issues.

As a Regular Army officer he served on four continents, receiving ten decorations for valor and service. He was a NATO exchange officer to both the French and British armies, and while stationed in Berlin he served as an Officer of the Guard at Spandau Prison, responsible for Rudolph Hess and other Nazi War Crimes inmates.

Two Vietnam combat tours followed, first with the 173rd Airborne Brigade and then with 5th Special Forces Group. During the infamous Tet Offensive, he Influenced the combat operations of more than 18,000 Montagnard irregulars under Green Beret control.

As a reserve officer later in life, he personally conducted highly classified and dangerous intelligence assignments in some of the hot spots of the world.

Since 1998 he has led the effort to create a family attraction, educational center, museum and memorial in Rhode Island's beautiful Narragansett Bay, featuring an aircraft carrier as the centerpiece. Just last week, the Navy designated the effort Lennon leads as the "sole viable candidate for the potential donation of the USS John F. Kennedy."

Lennon also organized and ran Rhode Island's salute to the centennial of aviation, and launched the highly acclaimed Rhode Island Aviation Hall of Fame.

He is involved with numerous veterans groups, especially Rhode Island's Special Forces Association. In 2006 he spearheaded and ran the acclaimed Veterans Picnic, which attracted some 1200 veterans along with every major candidate for political office.

"This is something I've wanted to say for a long time," said Lennon about his speech, which has been widely acclaimed locally. "I wrote it as much for me as I did for anyone else who might hear it."