



## **Cherie Johnston, B.S., MBA**

### **Biography:**

Cherie Johnston began her career as a four-year Junior Volunteer at Mission Hospital Regional Medical Center where she served successfully as both Secretary, and subsequently President of the Volunteer Board. This endeavor accrued Cherie over one thousand service hours by the time of her high school graduation. It was evident that at a young age Cherie had a true calling and passion for community service.

In the early '90s, Cherie married a United States Marine and moved aboard Camp Pendleton where she personally resided for four years. Cherie was the honored recipient of the Marine Corps Memorial Association Scholarship, in 1999. Ultimately, Cherie received a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Business Administration from Chapman University, with dual emphases in International Business and in Economics. Also, Cherie studied the Arabic language for over six years, the equivalency of a minor, making her completely proficient in reading and writing this challenging non-romance language. (Cherie studied both Fusha and the Cairene speaking dialect of Egypt.) Further, Cherie studied for two years' part time in the Master's of Economics program at California State University, Fullerton.

During Cherie's time at Chapman University, she became an active member of Alpha Kappa Psi, the prestigious business fraternity and continues her involvement today as an Alumni Member. Cherie completed an extensive internship with the U.S. Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration, Export Assistance Center, under the guidance of Senior International Trade Specialist Maryavis Bokal and the current Western Regional Director Richard Swanson, receiving an International Trade Certification.

Additionally, Cherie completed another extensive internship within the office of Congressman Ed Royce, of the former 40<sup>th</sup> Congressional District in Fullerton, California, during his prior tenure as the Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation and Trade. (Congressman Royce is currently the Chairman of the U.S. House Committee on Foreign Affairs.) In this capacity Cherie personally attended countless community events with the Congressman, from international affairs ceremonies, town hall meetings, business roundtables and parades. Following Cherie's internship under Congressman Ed Royce, she continued for many years to work closely with him on his campaign staff via a Political and Government

Affairs consulting firm. Throughout this time, Cherie also volunteered as a Historical Docent at the Richard Nixon Presidential Library.

Upon her graduation from Chapman University, Cherie entered the field of International Logistical Operations and Exports/ Imports where she personally routed cargo worldwide. This experience included moving complex licensed military defense hardware into locations like Western Europe, Eastern Europe and South America for exhibition. Cherie has a specialty in exporting products from the United States of America, and a vast array of knowledge from U.S. security and customs regulations, to supply chain decisions involved with moving products successfully worldwide to the marketplace. Her unwavering dedication to volunteerism is only paralleled by her passion for promoting U.S. exports abroad.

Also, Cherie is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, (DAR,) the National Association of Rocketry, (NAR,) the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, (AIAA,) and through her present employer the International Association for Contract & Commercial Management, (IACCM.) Cherie serves as the Secretary of the Board for the Daughters of the American Revolution, Katuktu Chapter, 2015 to 2017. Cherie has completed the Certified Federal Contracts Manager program through the National Contract Management Association, and holds an International Contract Negotiation certification through the IACCM, (following a yearlong study program.)

Currently, Cherie works for Panasonic Avionics, within the Aerospace Industry; first in the International Contract Department, and more recently in Sales and Marketing for Panasonic Technical Services (which oversees one of the world's largest aircraft maintenance organizations, and the aircraft-satellite-ground connections.) Cherie obtained a Masters of Business Administration at Chapman University, with an emphasis in International Business. As part of the International Business emphasis, Cherie participated in an immersion travel course to Brazil, where she met with Brazilian federal government leaders in Brasilia, and business executives in Rio de Janeiro across two weeks' time.

Cherie is well versed in the unique challenges U.S. military family members' face, and specifically the issues the military children are dealing with due to prolonged separations and deployments. Cherie successfully raised her son alone while his father, over the course of a twenty-year career span which included serving as a Reconnaissance Marine, was repeatedly deployed around the world and into combat situations, to locations such as Somalia and Iraq. As a result of over twenty-three years' experience in the defense arena, Cherie has had the honor to serve for over eight years as the co-founder and volunteer Chief Executive Officer for Military Children's Charity, Incorporated, (M.C.C.) which acknowledges and recognizes military children across all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces. Also, Military Children's Charity provides gifts year-round to a dozen bereaved children who lost a parent in service to our nation.

Lastly, Cherie is the co-founder and Chief Executive Officer for the start-up company American Revolutionary Space Systems, Incorporated.