

The Long Author Biography

Steve Snyder is the award-winning author of *SHOT DOWN*, the true story of his father, Howard Snyder, and the crew of the B-17 *Susan Ruth* during World War II. His dedication to researching and preserving the experiences of American airmen has made World War II history a central part of his life since his retirement.

Born in Pasadena, California, Steve attended schools in San Marino before studying at the University of California, Santa Barbara, and later UCLA, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics.

In 1973, Steve joined California Vision Service, later renamed Vision Service Plan (VSP). Over a 36-year career, he advanced from sales representative to several executive leadership positions, including National Accounts Vice President and Eastern Division Vice President. His responsibilities took him throughout the United States before he retired in 2009.

Retirement marked the beginning of an entirely different journey.

Steve began investigating the wartime experiences of his father, a B-17 pilot whose aircraft, the *Susan Ruth*, was named after Steve's oldest sister. What began as a personal effort to understand his father's experiences grew into years of research into the crew, their missions, and the people whose lives intersected with theirs during the war.

Steve Snyder | Author of SHOT DOWN

Steve@SteveSnyderAuthor.com

www.SteveSnyderAuthor.com

That research ultimately became *SHOT DOWN*, an award-winning book that preserves a remarkable chapter of World War II history. Through his writing, historical research, and interviews, Steve works to ensure that the experiences and sacrifices of the men and women of that generation are not forgotten.

Steve is President of the 306th Bomb Group Historical Association and Vice President of the 8th Air Force Historical Society. He is also involved with numerous World War II historical organizations.

Steve and his wife, Glenda, live in Seal Beach, California, where they raised their three sons. They also spend time at their second home in Sedona, Arizona. Outside his historical interests, Steve enjoys gardening, traveling, reading, walking, hiking, and following UCLA sports.

Whether discussing his father's experiences, the men of the Eighth Air Force, or the importance of preserving firsthand accounts of World War II, Steve's work reflects a conviction captured in his guiding words:

“It is our duty to remember.”

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