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Period 1

Chief Julius Mesias
United States Navy
22 years of service

Chief Julius Mesias

"There are some who've forgotten why we have a military. It's not to promote war, it's to be prepared for peace"(Ronald Reagan). Veterans nation wide are some of the strongest and kindest people; among them are some of America's biggest supporters. Chief Julius Mesias, a Chief Hospital Corpsman, was born and raised in the Philippines until the age of 23 while he was in college. Mesias joined the Navy because he has always wanted to see and travel the rest of the world. He was the first one in his family to join the American military. His family was sad he was leaving, but were excited for his opportunities in America. While growing up Mesias also studied abroad in Japan where he discovered his love for travel.

Mesias attended boot camp at the Recruiting Training Center, San Diego, California. On the first night in America Mesias was amazed because he got to stay at a hotel the first day he got there. Everything was so clean compared to what he was used to in the Philippines. One of the main things taught in boot camp was the cleaning of their weapons. He was surprised to see all the older guns they had really clean and taken care of because they didn't do that in the Philippines. Boot camp was fairly easy for him because he took ROTC in college and his dad was in the military so he was used to it. The Americans were very helpful and they taught them how to do many thing including learning some of his English. To help keep a lighthearted spirit the men played a lot of pranks on each other at boot camp. One of the pranks they did was

switching racks or lockers. To pass the time one of the things he liked to do was play the harmonica and pray.

Mesias' dream was to see the world and through the military that is exactly what he got to do. He traveled to Singapore, Thailand, Korea, Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia, Diego Garcia, Australia, Jordan, Egypt, Kenya, Djibouti, Somalia, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Germany, France, and Italy. The program is called 'space available' where he could get on a military plane and go to any of the U.S. bases worldwide whenever there was an open seat.. He kept in touch with his family by sending letters to each other. Mesias liked to travel to other places to meet new people and learn the different cultures. He usually went out of the base to see how the country really is, not just how it was inside the base.

One day at a base Chief Julius Mesias was finishing up his work and about to leave when he saw a Pakistani sailor waiting. Mesias, not knowing the man's language, tried to ask the man what he was doing. After a bit of time Mesias finally figured out that this man was waiting to get picked up and taken back to his ships, since he knew it was going to be a while, Chief Mesias decided to drive the sailor over there himself. When dropping the man off, he tried to pay Mesias money for the ride, but of course Mesias said no. The Pakistani sailor pulled out of his pocket a silver coin and told Chief Mesias that this coin was given to him by someone he had done service for and now it was his turn to pass along the coin. Julius Mesias kept that coin for 15 years as his lucky coin in war until passing it on his last day in service.

Chief Mesias' last job in the military was sending soldiers off to war. He called in a young man by the name of Flores and told him that he is being sent to war and to prepare to

leave. The look on this young mans face was terrified and he asked Chief Mesias if he could just have one more month until he had to leave. So Mesias made some calls and soon found out this young man was getting married. With all his power he figured out a way for Gomez to have some extra time to get married before he left off to war. Finally it was time for Mesias to retire from his 22 plus years of service. Normally when someone retires there is a big ceremony, but since many of Mesias' friends were still out fighting he did not feel right having a big party. He simply turned in his key, still feeling a big burden as he left his office. As soon as he walked out, there stood Flores. Mesias walked up to Flores and soon this young man was expressing his immense gratitude toward Captain Mesias. Observing the awards Flores had gotten for being a war hero, Mesias pulled him aside and they sat on the sidewalk. Mesias pulled out the silver coin. After 15 years of carrying it, he gave it to this young hero. It was as if a great burden was lifted because the tradition of kindness will continue to be passed down through the lucky silver coin.

Chief Mesias said, "War is hell". But unfortunately war is a necessary evil. Mesias only tells one single war story and picture with so much power. The picture is of a US soldier holding an enemy baby that they helped deliver in an American ambulance. The mother gave birth to the child in the middle of intense battle. In the middle of death, life was born, bringing hope in such difficult times. Mesias hopes and prays that the child would grow up and be a warrior of peace and not a warrior of war.

Mesias is very proud for wearing his uniform because he sees America as an amazing country. He believes America is a wonderful because the U.S. is so giving and we help everyone

when given a chance. Mesias life completely changed when he joined the military. He was in the military for more than 22 years and has special memories. He married his wife when he was in the service and has a daughter named Julia. Mesias advised "Support soldiers by following our dreams and staying in school to get a good education." Chief Julius Mesias is very proud for serving this country.