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Period 2

Kenneth Erwin

U.S. Navy

1962-1966

### Kenneth Erwin

Kenneth Erwin was raised in Arizona where it was really hot. Erwin decided the Navy would be a good choice because it would teach him how to add structure to his life into something he enjoys to do, also because growing up in Arizona there were no beaches around him, it was time for some adventure and change. The Navy had given Erwin a lot of discipline. Erwin had worked below deck, working with the machinery. Erwin had visited Hawaii real briefly during his deployment. Erwin liked traveling a lot and when ever there were moments that were very suspenseful, such as “ North Vietnam, thrust being on the ship, burned out and the ship was dead in the water, enemies surrounded us as we were in the gulf just off of Vietnam.” (Erwin) Erwin’s crew was waiting for repairs to be made. The ship held five million gallons of black oil and, one hundred thousand aviation gallons of gas. “I liked that, to me it was exciting.” (Erwin) The Veteran had also shared a memorable experience that is unforgettable and motivational. When Mr. Erwin arrived in Japan, he really enjoyed the Japanese culture and the people because they were very sincere. He would enjoy to go back.

The Navy veteran gave advice that will teach that if you take lessons from older people then it will be helpful for the future because the veteran had shared very influential lessons that will answer questions that have been wondered of in the past. "You need to find something that will give you structure and discipline and in the naval situation, you have to go by the rules..." Soon after Erwin had left the military, he had started school and the G.I bill helped pay for his schooling. "Joining the military was the best decision I ever made. They pay for school, lower interest on your homes, and give your life structure." He also said " When there is someone in need, don't always expect anything in return,sometimes it doesn't come back to you."

Lessons learned by the Navy veteran are to be willing to support and help our own family, even if we don't get anything in return because family has unconditional love. The opinions the Navy veteran had shared were very important because he had shared his feelings about the bombing of Pearl Harbor and how that made him feel, and his final opinion on the subject. The veteran experiences had helped to explore his thoughts and feelings to really find a true calling of oneself. Erwin's experiences of the Navy are very positive because it had showed him how the world in action was like, and that there are a lot of different things going on in the government that aren't known about, like the war at sea or the responsibilities of Navy seamen of how to control ships and keeping its maintenance in good condition.

The veteran enjoyed Japan and believes that the people are sincere and honest. During the time, he was there the Japanese people were very skeptical and confused about American people because they may have not had a lot of contact with them. Also when someone is surrounded by common things that are normal and once being surrounded by something that is different, it can be a life changing experience for anyone. Erwin also said he would love to go back to Japan, he

likes the people there. Erwin said that he didn't like any type of seafood until he went to Japan. However, he did enjoy shrimp.

Erwin had shared his memories, advice, his personal opinions, and gave a deeper understanding of life, that can be used to be as a successful learning tool that is always dreamed of. The experiences that came from a veteran shared by his stories will change lives because he had a great life of a Navy veteran and is a hero. Mr. Erwin is very successful too because he had so many interesting stories to tell that are very meaningful.

Kenneth Erwin shared many personal stories that will never be forgotten, when he described about why he went into the Navy because he was living in dry climates growing up in Arizona, and how he loves being at sea. Kenneth shared all his military memories that will make anybody very lucky to be able to get to know him as a veteran. Mr. Erwin told about how he married his wife of now fifty years while in the Navy and how they only communicated through mail for three years. Kenneth Erwin was the best veteran because he didn't sugar coat his time in the military or try to make his service in the military more action packed than it really was. Erwin showed that it doesn't matter what your role in the military is, because they are all really important and without every part of the military then none of it would run as smoothly. Kenneth Erwin is given plenty of gratitude and thanks for sharing his wonderful stories and whoever gets him for next years to come will feel as inspired as anybody in the world will ever be.

