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### Bruce Bachman

We interviewed a veteran named Bruce Bachman and his story all starts from when he was born in Akron, Ohio Aug.7 1941. He had left Akron September, 1945 then he was raised in South Gate, CA until 1958. He was working as a craftsmen after high school. He went to USC college for a Bachelor's Degree in engineering to become a mechanical engineer. His favorite president is president Roosevelt because even though he was four years old when he died, he saw how much his parents looked up to him and respected him and he knew that he was a great important man.

Bruce Bachman was eligible for the draft but decided to sign up for the Navy knowing that it would cancel his draft going into the army since that's where most people went when they got drafted . Another reason why he joined was because his family was a big influence. He signed up to be in the Navy in the year 1961 in July. The following christmas he had a two week Boot Camp with an alcoholic boot camp instructor that bragged about drinking. They got up 4 in the morning to march at Huntington Park, CA Naval Training Center and after graduating from usc, he went on active duty reporting to do Electrician's Mate School in San Diego He was stationed on a ship called the USS HORNET CVS-12 which was an aircraft carrier in Hunters Point in San Francisco on September 1964. The USS HORNET was named after the 1<sup>st</sup> WW2 HORNET ship that has been sunk. He was on and off the ship for a while because it was on a dry dock so when he had to work he went on the ship and when he was done he would go back on base. His first job on the ship was a Mess Cook skinning potatoes all day long from October, 1964 to January 1965. After that he became an electrician with a rank of Petty Officer Third Class which is also known as the rank E4 because he wanted a more difficult task..He also got to watch the planes

catapult off the ship which was really loud and hurt his hearing. He wrote back to his family once a week and had that job as an electrician for the navy from January 1965 to April 1966. The ship he was on made 1 western pacific cruise August 1965-March, 1966.

Petty Officer 3<sup>rd</sup> class, Bruce Bachman would see combat indirectly. His ship was in Vietnam waters from September, 1965 to February, 1966 and he received combat pay. He has been in two collisions; One collision happened on one bad storm, one collision, and one steering mishap. The bad storm occurred between Japan and Korea when waves 80 to 50 ft high, broke over the flight deck, and the radar antenna to 90 degree angles. The collision occurred when the hornet was connected by a large rope and pulley with a destroyer. The hornet was sending supplies to the destroyer. The two ships were sailing parallel when suddenly, the hornet lost steering control and crashed into a destroyer. The noise was deafening. The result was that the forward gun mount of the destroyer was severely damaged. The gun mount was lifted 30 degrees instead of pointing straight ahead. He did what every other sailor did for entertainment which was drink and chase women and he also did their ritual, crossing the equator where the new guys would have to be in flip flops and shorts only and slowly crawl in garbage to be a shellback and if you didn't do it you didn't get your liberty card.

There was also a lot of discrimination on the ship as well. He told a story on how the electrician happened to be all white, the mexicans were all welders, and all the blacks were stationed in the boiler room. One day also at the electrician school in san diego the captain put one black man with the whites and told them that they would have to take care of him and treat him good to see how they would react in order to see if people on the ship were capable of being with each other and the lesson was learned. He has also explained about discipline the soldiers known that where prisoners; the prisoners had to put their cover folded over their eyes and were subjected to get beat up by the marines for punishment because anything below the neck was fair game and they also marched in order above deck. Although Bruce was

stunned by several of his peers by what they think what war was about and they said things like why would join the military during war time but to him he considered himself as a citizen service man. He felt responsible and gladly fulfilled and he believed was his duty to serve his country. Later on he applied for four jobs hoping that 1 would accept him and eventually he got a job at an engineering company.