

Maria Rodriguez
Monique Mercado
U.S Navy (SS)
20 years of service

Daniel Zepeda

Daniel Zepeda was a remarkable Veteran who served the U.S Navy during World War II and the Korean War at the age of 18 after attending Garfield High School. He was born in East Los Angeles on January 3, 1927. He served the U.S Navy for 20 years. Zepeda had many accomplishments, such as becoming a scorekeeper for San Pedro and steering ships. Some of the places he mentioned he went to were Japan, Korea, China, and the Philippines.

During his experience in World War II he went through plenty of discrimination. He would be called a spick because of his race. Throughout the fact that he would be discriminated, he was also jumped causing him to break his finger. He recalls that one of the most terrible thing he went through was devastation. Seeing all those dead bodies around him made him feel sorry for those who passed away. Some of the hardships he had to go through were the Japanese Kamikazes going after him and his crew, leading them to go through tunnels to try not to get killed. He states that throughout his experience in World War II he was often found in a state of confusion, many times he didn't know what to do, but was strong enough to go through those hardships. A World War II victory medal was awarded to him for being brave and getting through it, however that was one of the many awards he had received.

After World War II he was sent to serve in the Korean War and worked as a storekeeper. The Japanese were running Korea at the time so Korea was not going through much. Zepeda carried ten thousands of dollars of merchandise. He compared the jobs he had and he explains that he really enjoys being the head of steering ships, but storekeeping was just more

responsibility. While he was a storekeeper he had to handle lots of money. While he needed some of his clothes ironed he explains that he would lay out his clothing underneath his mattress and the next day his clothing would be as good as if he were to get it ironed. Since there was not much to do in his free time he would play cards, jacks, marbles, and stay out of trouble.

After serving for 20 years he went back home to his family. Daniel Zepeda was released from the Korean War on July 16, 1954. It did not take long for Zepeda to start working again. He worked for Pep Boys and drove trucks across the country and different states to deliver produce. Zepeda did this for eighteen years. Since he drove trucks to deliver produce he would travel long ways.

Daniel Zepeda currently is a loving father of three, grandfather of eight, and great grandfather of nine. He explains his thoughts about the war now and would he go back serving. Zepeda explains that if he got called up right now to serve he would go. His thoughts about war now is that it is in the past and it was so long ago that he does not have anymore feelings about it. He says, “ why live in the past? What happen, happen...”, he has no regrets about the war and like he said he would go back and serve. Zepeda has a special quote that he explains which is “Don’t take wooden nickels because you’ll get slivers”. Zepeda is someone that does not live in the past and goes forward and never looks back. From all Daniel Zepedas accomplishments and awards he is a very valuable man.

Zepeda has a beautiful family. His three kids Andrea, Christopher and Daniel Zepeda Jr., are now hard working adults and doing big things in life. Andrea works as an Artistic Entertainment and also helps put up the Rose Parade in Pasadena. Chris works for Toshiba and has 14 people under him. Jr is an Iwo Jima Commemorative Committee Treasurer. At the age of

21, Julia Saldunbide and Daniel Zepeda got married in East Los Angeles at Lady of Lourdes Church. Sadly, she had taken advantage of a young man. She passed away in 1958. His parents, Manuel and Andrea Zepeda had met at a Sunkist fruit packing plant, where they both worked at. They were married in 1923, but were only married for 21 years. Unluckily, his mother had passed away while in boot camp. They both played a big role in his life.