

Oscar Vargas

Jorge Vargas

Period 6

Dave L. Zelenka

Navy

Years in Service: 26

Years Interviewed 1



Dave or also known as Chief Petty Officer Dave L. Zelenka of the U.S Navy was a utility's man who had joined the Navy straight out of high school. Originally signing up wanted to be a Navy Jet-Fighter, but unfortunately did not have the education. So instead he had become a C.B (utilities men in the Navy). 26 years later Mr.Zelenka retires from the Navy and pursued

plumbing as his trade skill that he learned in the Navy and later retired plumbing after 55 years of service and work.

From Michigan Mr. Zelenka had an average life as a regular teenager in the 50's, then in 1962 enlisted right out of high school. Dave had undergone boot camp and 2 weeks later he was deployed out to Okinawa. In Okinawa Dave was a Utility Worker/Construction Worker. These workers were considered as C.B's. As a C.B Dave and his battalion went out and built marine barracks in Vietnam and also had done a lot of community service. He had then after his deployment had been sent to California. As his deployment ended the war in Vietnam had started so he wasn't able to be deployed there. While he was in California he had looked around at other services, but soon after realized that the C.B's were for him. So after his time in California Dave had decided to go back to boot camp and had gone out for another deployment in Okinawa. As he came back he had realized that there was a lot of work needed to be done; "he had all the work, but not enough tools." Even though there was a lot of work He had told us about how beautiful it was out there, but had also told us about how much it rained. It had rained so much that at one point he had gone 22 days without any dry clothes. Even through all this he still tried to stay positive and keep a good attitude. After 26 years Dave had retired from the Navy at 55 and had gone out to practice his trade as a plumber. "Always get a trade no matter what" is what he had told us and he had told us that it's almost needed so that you can survive and get a job. While he was in the Navy he had gone out to "A-School" which is there equivalent to college. About three months of A-School will give the same amount of education than one year of college. As he looks back at he recalls joining the C.B's as "the best decision of his life." And that if he had to redo his life again he would do everything exactly as it was.