

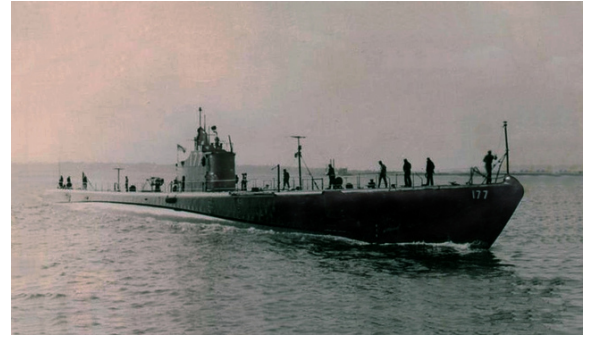
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Per 3

Don Noyes

U.S. NAVY

July 1951 - March 1955

2016



### Don Noyes

During King High Remembers I was fortunate to have met Mr. Don Noyes. His outlook on his military experience and life, have greatly impacted mine. His lessons, teachings, and story will stick with me for the rest of my life. I am so grateful to have been able to have met this man.

Don Noyes was born on March 3rd, 1934 in Saint Paul, Minnesota. His father was a veteran of the US Army and served during WW1. His freshman year of high school, his family moved to San Bernardino, CA in 1947. He graduated from San Bernardino High School. Mr. Noyes did not have a specific plan for himself after he graduated high school in 1951. During that time period, the Korean War was in full effect and he knew he had a very high chance of being drafted, and he was gonna get stuck in the Army. He knew he didn't want to be in that branch of military. So he took it upon himself and enlisted to join the US Navy.

At the end of Boot Camp, the Navy asked, does any sailor want to serve in the submarine? Mr. Noyes happily accepted. Because He grew up in a poor family, he didn't have a lot of good food, but when he got to Bootcamp, he said, "He never ate so good in his life". He gained 20 pounds from eating. Boot Camp and the Navy helped him and influenced him later on in his life with the jobs he had after he was discharged from the Navy. He witnessed no discrimination towards African American men, but did see different treatment toward single and married sailors. After Boot Camp, he was sent to Connecticut for nine months to attend Submarine

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school and then after sent to Connecticut for Submarine school. He then was sent to San Francisco to attend Electronic school for nine months.

In April 1952 Don Noyes was assigned to the USS Pickerel SS 524 diesel electric submarine. The average crew aboard the vessel is 70 to 80 sailors. This submarine was his home for the next 2 1/2 years. On the USS Pickerel, Mr. Noyes' job was to operate the radar (when surfaced) and to operate the sonar (when submerged). All sailors aboard a submarine, must learn every job on the sub and pass a test, in order to become qualified in Submarines. The home port for the USS Pickerel, was Pearl Harbor. While he was in port at Pearl Harbor, he had the opportunity to go back to the states. But he liked it so much in Hawaii, he didn't go back until his time was discharged.

One of Mr.Noyes' craziest stories was when the USS Pickerel was in the middle of the Pacific ocean. The captain allowed the men to have a swim call. There was one man on the bridge, that was designated to protect the swimming sailors from sharks. That particular sailor was armed with a machine gun. When the sailors were swimming, one of the crew members of the sub, released the leftover food in the water. Then sharks started surfacing to feed on the leftover food, while the sailors were in the water. Once the swimming sailors heard the gunshots of the gunner, they all made a B line towards the sub. "But you better believe, that we were running on water back to the sub!" Said Mr.Noyes.

Don Noyes was discharged on March 2nd 1955 in San Diego, he was 21 years old at the time. He didn't want to fly back to the states, so he hitched a ride aboard another sub to San Diego. His training with electronics in the Navy helped him get a job at Pacific Telephone. He kept this job until he retired. In 1956 he married his wife and has been with her for 60 years in June, and are still going strong. They had 2 sons and ended up having 4 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren.

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Don Noyes views his experiences in the Navy, as one the best decisions he's ever made. His joyful personality showed me you can be happy and enjoy life even if you join the military, and this experience has made me strongly consider the military as a career path. Mr.Noyes has changed my life and I can't thank him enough for doing so. I hope many other students and people will be able to hear this great mans story.

