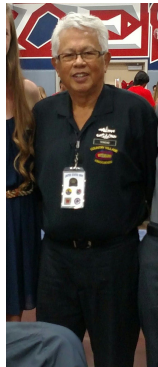


Merisa Cote
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Period 2

Porfirio Pagtakhan Trinidad
Navy
Served from 1959 to 1981



Porfirio Pagtakhan Trinidad

“It’s not a job it’s an adventure.” Porfirio Trinidad lived his life in the most adventurous way possible, not only did he sacrifice his own personal well being for the freedom of our country, he did it optimistically. This truly inspiring man has opened the eyes of everyone he commits his story to, by speaking with the younger generation through King High remembers, one year after another.

Trinidad was born in the Philippines on November 4th, 1938. His father, Telesforo C. Trinidad, is the only Filipino in the U.S. Navy to be awarded the Medal of Honor for “going Above and beyond the call of Duty,” by showing remarkable heroism in his profession. Telesforo risked his life to save two others from the explosion on board the USS San Diego on the 21st of January, 1915. Porfirio Trinidad closely followed his father’s footsteps. He was a

volunteer and started training in San Diego in the June of 1959. However, this wasn't without much stress, for his father didn't want him to join the Navy. His application took two weeks to be approved, and Trinidad stated it was one of his most stressful times. After training, he dedicated a large fraction of his life serving on numerous submarines, training and traveling. His main duty was cooking for the crew and officers. Through December 1959 and July 1962, he served at the submarine base at Pearl Harbor, and on the USS Colahan and USS Los Angeles, a temporary duty station while waiting orders, and going to submarine school.

His adventures didn't stop there. Porfirio volunteered to serve in a submarine so he attended school for it at New London, Connecticut from November 1962 to January 1963. Subsequently, he was stationed as a cook to the USS Harder for eight months, which was a diesel submarine, and to the USS Darter. He later served in the USS Nathan Hale, a fleet ballistic missile submarine. "It was one of the most scariest moments of my life because of all the missiles that we carried!" stated with a great smile on his face. He then visited his girlfriend at the time who was also a nurse. Soon after this, he served on two diesel submarines, the USS Harder, and the USS Darter through the years of 1963 and 1966. Following these, he was stationed at two others before he attended the Armed forces staff college in the May of 1970 to the September of 1974. At times they would run out of food, which only consisted of eggs, canned milk and other basic necessities. At times, they weren't even allowed to talk, and would just communicate by signaling. Though through all of the struggles he experienced throughout, he stayed incredibly optimistic and is still grateful for all of it. He even refers to his service in the Navy as a blessing.

However outside of serving, Trinidad had a beautiful wife he met in college. He got married at 27, together they had three children which has grown into the loving family that means so much to him today. Throughout serving he was enormously appreciative for the three telegrams to them he got a month. Not only this, but Trinidad has a passion for cooking, particularly traditional American meals. He even worked at Pope's deli and Imports from October 14th 1987 to December 30th of 1988. In addition, he also worked at American Veterans Thrift Store, Kalo Dental Lab, and a number of other places. At the age of 40, Mr. Porfirio retired from the Navy. Trinidad retired on February 22, 2002 after working for Dr. Gregory Robins Family Dentistry. Him and his wife travel around for fun and are still married. Mrs. Trinidad (Dory Trinidad) is retired and was once a nutritionist counselor. Mr. Trinidad is one of the most insightful and good-natured people we have ever met and we look forward to meeting him again.

Unfortunately, of everything we've learned about the life of Porfirio Trinidad, one essay simply does not do his story justice. He was a determined man who did exactly what he wanted, and did not let his hardships change him. He's a veteran that has been numerous places and hopes for nothing more than a peaceful world, and looks at his past and sees only the positive. Propitiously. Trinidad continues to return to King High Remembers to share the story of his adventure with those fortunate enough to hear it.