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Period 1

Howard Hart
Navy
1958-1967
2018

Howard Hart

Howard Hart always loved fixing things as a child. So when he became a mechanic in the Navy, he knew it was meant to be. When joining the service Hart had no idea what he was getting himself into but would soon become to love it. He served in the Vietnam War from the beginning to half way through. Being in the service taught Hart structure and to always appreciate life.

Howard Hart grew up in Pennsylvania with his parents and siblings. Growing up him and his brother were always close. As a child he got into a lot of trouble and played a lot of pranks. In highschool, Hart mostly kept to himself and he did not keep in touch with most of his high school friends after graduation. When he was eighteen he followed in his brothers footsteps and joined the service. His reason for joining was because for a young teenager in the 1950s there was not many jobs available. Hart's family was very supportive of him joining the Navy because his brother was already in. He made a promise to his mother to keep in touch. He wrote to her and called her as much as he could . As soon as he joined he went to bootcamp at Great Lakes Naval Training Center. He graduated boot camp on July 9th, 1958. Hart had no idea what he was getting himself into but was very excited for what was to come.

After boot camp Hart was assigned to the submarine base in New London, Connecticut. His position at this new assignment was to operate the cranes. On June 15th, 1961 he was

promoted to E-5 Machinery Repairman 2nd Class. After this promotion he decided to enlist for another six years. While in the service he found time to go to school in San Diego. After, he relocated to Tachikawa, Japan which involved a flight to Travis AFB. Then, he went to Hawaii and the last stop before Tachikawa was Wake Island. In San Diego he found his wife and stayed married for 27 years. They had four kids together and everytime he was stationed some place new they would go with him. Three of Hart's children were born while he was in the service and the last one was born days before he left the service. Lastly, he was stationed in Scotland aboard the Hunley for the second time. In Scotland he and the other repairmen had to learn how to repair a nuclear reactor. It was a significant event for Hart.

After being enlisted for 9 years, he finally decided to leave the service in 1967. When arriving home everything felt strange to him without the constant order of the service. He decided that his main priority was to find a job to support his family and to stay busy. Hart eventually settled down, which he was not fond of since he did not like being unoccupied. He lived in Chicago after the service but he realized he hated the cold. He moved his family to California, where they now live. He is a grandfather with had 8 grandkids. Hart's job now is a security officer in the Moreno Valley mall. He lives in a Veterans Village Country Club, where he spends his time with the other Veterans. His kids and grandkids visit him alot and he is always around his family. One of his grandson is planning on following his grandfather's footsteps and joining the service.

Howard Hart went in to the service ready to learn and become a new person. When he left he was structured and knew what he had to do to survive in the world. He would not trade the service for anything. When veterans pass on their experiences from the war it teaches young

kids the history of America. They get to hear real life stories and see the perspective of the people who put their own lives in danger for their country.”Veterans are a symbol of what makes our nation great, and we must never forget all they have done to ensure our freedom.(Rodney Frelinghuysen).” This quote is an example of how greatly veterans impact the lives of all Americans. Young people should be more appreciative of veterans and all they do for us. Without them we would not have the freedoms we have today.