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Period 6

Jesus Lopez jr.
Army
3 years (1950-1953)
2018



Jesus Lopez Jr.

April 14th 1934 is when Jesus was born, Los Angeles , California at County Hospital is where he was born. Jesus Lopez Jr. the third was a corporal officer who served in the Korean war for about 3 years (1951- 1953.) Jesus fought 8th army with 3rd division all over North and South Korea, Fort Bliss , Fort Texas, even in Okinawa, Japan and many more places in combat, too many to name at that. The Korean War started in 1950 because the North Korean Communists army crossed the 38th parallel and invaded the non- communists South Korean region. We always see in movies about boot camps/ war and how it looks tough but simple at the same time, and that people get promoted easily after their 2nd week , made up stories from people who were not even there well that's false, after meeting Jesus my whole mindset changed, I never would have thought about the Army or boot camp in this way.

Before actually entering the Army Jesus was a tough and troublesome guy but was also a very involved student , he was a huge sports fan of basketball and ran in track & field with a time of 3 minutes and 32 seconds. Jesus occasionally ditched school , got into fights just for the heck of it then made up with the people he got into fights with afterwards, and hung out with gang affiliated people . Jesus even started to take up drinking but not drugs because he was not interested in it and seen too many of his friends die from overdose however, eventually got G.E.D. after he graduated. The choice of joining the Army was not the idea of Jesus, it was his parents doing, it was either go to the Army or go to jail at the age of 17. The first day of boot

camp he thought to himself “this is not going to be fun” especially since the Southern boys and African American boys were constantly at each other's throats because of their race. Although Jesus did not like the training and thought it was tough some of the skills helped him survive and get through combat. He thanked his officers for putting them through hell even though they slept in mud, woke up at 4 am, and could not shower for 3 weeks.

Fast forwarding to the day Mr. Lopez joined the army , June 25th 1950, if it was up to him he would have chose joined a different part of the military , because he thought Army would be easiest. Going into the Army Jesus had no faith at all whatsoever and tried his hardest not to get attached to anyone or make any friends because he knew they would die in the war eventually. Even before going into combat he did not pray or have a certain saying for good luck. Involved in many combats and travelled everywhere or anywhere you could think of, involved in combat in Fort bliss, Fort Texas , Okinawa, South Korea and North Korea. He has seen and been through everything possible, to get through it he would drink, the times he would drink was practically all the time only to get through the war , when he was on leave, for fun , after his service was done. His team never really had parties but when they did they were fun and small , they would just chill , laugh and joke around, speaking of joking around Jesus was considered a practical joker over there because once him and his friends constantly played jokes on the sergeant .

After the war Jesus did not have too many regrets except the fact that he never really told his mom and dad he loved them especially since he rarely had time to write to his family . Jesus was given the chance to be let out June 15th 1954 and he didn't take that for granted so he got out of there with a quickness. After his service, Jesus was awarded for his 3 years of service in the army, too many to name in fact, but you would expect a huge parade or something for all the

veterans hard work but apparently there was no celebration of any kind for any of the veterans for their hard and dedicated work which was okay with Jesus. After the war Jesus continued with his life , finished school and got his GED and became a correctional officer for about 20 years before retiring . He even attended therapy through a veteran psychiatrist because he wanted to forget what he experienced especially since he thought about suicide multiple times which would be normal for someone who went through what Jesus went through. When therapy didn't work he would once again drink his pain away almost like a coping mechanism. Present day , Jesus lives alone in the Arizona desert with his dog and would rather keep it that way because he doesn't like getting attached to people or anyone because when they're gone or die it would hurt to him too much .

“Conquer fear and love your enemies “ Jesus said . I find that very inspirational to keep In mind especially since he went into the army with the mentality of just flipping people off . Then leaving with the mentality of loving your enemies because life is too short for hatred really changes how I view the world . Jesus agrees that if it wasn't for the Army he doesn't know how he would've ended up or how he would've turned out. Not many veterans would take the time to sit down and tell their story about being apart of war because they want to simply forget and leave the horror in the past or because it hurts to talk about it . Even though I could see the sadness in his eyes at some parts of the interview I appreciate Jesus Lopez Jr. for sharing his story in the Korean War and thank him for his service and protecting our country.