

Dylan Corona

Period 1

Chuck Marquez

Airforce

1964-1968

2018

Chuck Marquez

United States Veteran, Chuck Marquez was born on May 5th, 1944 in Orange, California and stayed there until he decided to enlist in the Air Force. Chuck would serve four years as a medic, traveling as far as Vietnam and even working in the United States at Hamilton Air Force Base. Over four years Chuck would make countless memories and experience the horrendous things that come with war.

Chuck grew up close to his family. He lived with his older brother and his parents. Chuck attended Western High School in Anaheim. While there, he would enjoy participating in track and field. Chuck would spend most of his life in Anaheim, until he would finally decide on what he really wanted to do with his life.

In 1964, Chuck would choose to enlist in the Air Force. He decided to do this after hearing countless stories about the Army from his brother. Excited to join the war effort, Chuck was sent to Texas to begin his military training at Lackland Air Force Base. Training in the hot Texas sun would take a total of eight weeks. Having ambitions to become an Aircraft Mechanic, he received orders to go to Gunter Air Force Base to become a medic. Here Chuck went through medical training. This training would involve tending wounds and learning the skills that would make him valuable in war. After successfully completing this process, he would then get the orders to begin the next chapter of his enlistment journey.

With his newly developed skills, he would get the orders to work at Hamilton Air Force Base. Here he was assigned to the 78th United States Air Force Hospital where he would try to do his job the best he could. Chuck was constantly busy; not allowing him time to miss loved ones. Hamilton would be a place where Chuck could further advance his medical skills. After two years he was assigned overseas to work at Clark Air Force Base in a hospital in the Philippines.

After serving in California for two years, Chuck was excited to be deployed to a new environment and would take his expertise to Clark Air Force Base. At Clark, Chuck would have time to write and receive letters from his family.. One of the most enjoyable things from the Philippines was the food. After spending a year in what would be Marquez's favorite stop on this four year journey, the United States of America would decide that it was time for Marquez to help the war effort in Vietnam.

Chuck was then sent to Binh Thuy Air Force Base in Vietnam, here he would work in a medical dispensary. This is where he would discover the tragedies that come with a war. After Chuck's platoon was repeatedly attacked by Viet Cong, he would sometimes come back to find deceased comrades and horrific injuries. While inactive, he would often travel down to Can Tho, the closest town to Binh Thuy, and share a few drinks with friends. If not at Can Tho, Chuck would work with Vietnamese soldiers and go to local villages and help tend to those in need. After finishing his year in Vietnam he was offered an extension to continue his service in Japan or the Philippines. After hearing the news his extension papers were lost, Chuck would decline another extension because it would mean spending another six months in Vietnam. Chuck went to Travis Air Force Base, where he would end his four years of active military duty.

After his service, Chuck remained in California where he would meet the love his life, who he has now been married to for 47 years. He acquired a job at Swedlow where he manufacturing airplane windows for 42 years. The trials of war would revisit Chuck; exposure to Agent Orange would be the cause of his bone cancer. He would not let this life threatening disease overtake him. Instead, is living happily in Southern California with his family. After reflecting on his service, Chuck explained that although he wouldn't like to return to Vietnam, he has no regrets about his time in the military. Chuck stays connected with one friend from his time overseas, and despite the horrific parrels of war, Chuck always knew how to keep a good sense of humor.