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Period 6

Ben Orozco  
Navy  
5 Years of Service  
2018



### Ben Orozco

Ben Orozco was born in Glendale, Arizona in 1933 he went to Roosevelt high school but later dropped out, at age 17, 1950 he signed up and went to San Diego to receive basic training. Ben was put on a plane ship that flew him to Treasure Island, where the Navy Base Station was and Ben said that there he slept on only canvases/cot like beds without any pillows. He also said that he was a little scared because there was a lot of yelling and he wasn't quite used to people yelling at him. In 1951 on Okinawa Ben was put on an Administrative Unit Ship, The Salisbury Sound. He enjoyed his time on the Salisbury Sound and would constantly get on and off this ship. Ben was constantly getting on and off this ship but he really enjoyed his time there because he loved the sea. While in the Navy, Ben wanted to finish his education but couldn't because he had to wait 18 months before he could apply for a school.

In 1952 Ben traveled for the first time on a train, alone to Washington DC and went to school in the Pentagon, it was a Military Institution basement where the Lithography school was located. Traveling on that plane alone taught Ben more responsibility and how to handle things on his own. There at the Government Printing Office he chose and learned how to do Lithography Offset Printing. Ben wrote many letters to young ladies during that time and traveled a lot which made him able to meet all the girls he wrote letters to. Ben finished his schooling in Washington and traveled to The Pearl Harbor, Kawaii where he lived in little huts then went back to Treasure Island for 30 days. In 1950 he went to bucknery bay 5 years after the

war in okinawa there he would get on the repair ships and repair seaplanes the main ships he remembers are the USS pine and the USS salisbury sound both of these ships he would get on for three months and get off the get on then off over and over again.

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Ben continued to travel with the Navy and visited Hawaii where he spent a lot of his time. He visited Pearl Harbor and Ford Island where he stayed in his barracks and waited for the next day to go to work as a lithographer. When in Commission it was a tradition for them to get dumped in a pool with clothes on, so in Hawaii that was something that Ben got to experience. Ben spent a week of vacation in Hawaii, which they called "liberty" at the time and he visited a volcano and attended a Baptist Church where he got involved with the young adults group. Another thing Ben said he saw in Hawaii were some sunken ships near Pearl Harbor where the Japanese had bombed them.

Ben shared a story about the time when he was 17 and moved to Guam, that he had snuck out of the base. Ben wasn't the type to make bad choices, but at the time he was young and

convinced to sneak out. He didn't get caught but he told us that if he did he could have lost his Honorable discharge which he received at age 21. Ben told us that his advice for us now is, "Careful what you do". Ben told us a lot of his experiences in the Navy and one of the funny stories was that one time a prank was played on him and they told him to go downstairs and get a bucket of steam. He went down there and all the guys started to laugh.

Ben explained a lot of what he learned about being in the Navy. He told us that while in the navy he had to be open to many different ways of personality and he learned to get along with just about EVERYBODY because there were all kinds of people in the Navy.

Ben said that another thing he loved about being in the Navy was the fact that it taught him a lot of responsibility and time management , he was always aware that any negative thing you do will have consequences. Since he grew up in a Christian Environment entering the Navy was a very different setting for him because there was a lot of drinking, cussing and sex, but luckily Ben found a buddy who felt the same way about not liking all the things many of those in the navy did. Ben said there was a lot of temptation in the Navy but he'd never smoked once in his life which was seen as an accomplishment and he had just drank his first alcohol at age 26 but learned to enjoy it and not abuse it. The Military really changed Ben and he said he wouldn't be who he is today if it weren't for the Military.

Ben graduated from East LA college with a 3.2 GPA which was really good, considering the fact that he was a C student. Then he got accepted into UC Berkeley where he graduated with a 3.4 GPA and received mostly all A's! All because of Ben's motivation he got good grades and thanks to the GI Bill, college was free. After the military, Ben wasn't quite sure what he wanted to do. He wanted to become a priest or even a teacher so he got his masters and graduated from seminary and later got married. For a while he taught 6th grade then taught at Perris Elementary

and had a church in Lake Elsinore. Now for fun Ben watches Pbs documents for 20% of his time, does jigsaw puzzles 40% of the time and reads the other 40%. Ben continues to live a content life and has remained married to his wife for 50 years.