

Adan Lagos
Jovani Marquez
Period 5

Garrey Vasta
Coast Guard
10 years
2018

Garrey Vasta

Garrey Vasta was born in Riverside California 1971. He went to highschool at Poly and was a football athlete. As he went through high school he was kinda undecided as of what he was going to do when he grew older. After he graduated high school he went to Riverside Community College. As he got through his first year of community college he still was undecided so he thought to himself to join the military. One of his reasons for joining the military was his grandfather served as a marine in world war 2 and would fight in Germany. His mother and father didn't have the same reaction when he wanted to join the military his mother would be supportive but his father wouldn't be supportive.

He went to bootcamp for 9 months, he described it as a difficult and tiring. For example, he once saw someone trying to commit suicide because people wouldn't be able to handle the training in boot camp. He would also be homesick in boot camp. He came out of boot camp as rank E3. When he graduated boot camp he became rank E4. As he join the Coast Guard he was rank E5 second class and he would feel like the first time he was a part of something and would be scared when deployed.

While in the service he was able to visit many places like Alaska, Sea Cortez, South Pacific, Midway island, Japan, Syria, Austria, and New Mexico and many more.

He said he formed many close friendships in the Coast Guard and that it was like a brother hood and would stay in touch after all these years.

For the first two years he was in border patrol which is where he stops people from migrating from china and they would smuggle kids and teens under the boat with no food or water for months and when the He remembered when they attacked a ship and once captured they had to send the teens back to china also the united states wanted the ship so they had to take it to the states so they had to drive that boat and it went six miles per hour and would be filled with cockroaches so what they would do when they were bored was race the roaches for food or drinks. The United States sometimes wanted the ships for investigen so they would take it to the states. They had to drive that boat and it went six miles per hour and would be filled with cockroaches and the ship would be filthy. He said when they had gun fights and the japanese would carry AK-47. He prefered the shotgun when going into battle with the enemy.

He was a Coast Guard after doing border patrol. One of the missions he had was savchild and a mother were in the water the grandmother was already dead on the shore so the when he rescued them he had to take them to the nearest hospital him and his friend would take turns giving the child cpr the mother was in a coma when they were in the hospital and later told that they had passed. As they arrived there job was done and only could pray for them. Days after they were informed that they both had passed away. Another scary mission he had was in San Francisco where a father and a son were stuck next to the rocks in a hiking trail this is where the child was unconscious and later they were saved. After a couple days they received medals for their bravery and got thanked by the father and son for saving them. Which was the first time they

had got thanked so he thought that was a pretty cool thing. He said that was the hard part about the job.

He had different uniforms he had a blue uniform which meant search and rescue and would have a name tag another uniform was a green uniform which was narcotic search and didn't have his name so enemies wouldn't know. He would also carry with him his lucky knife and before doing a search and rescue mission he would look at his crashing helicopter to remind him that life is short. He would kind of stay in touch with family and would send letters but would take three months for the family to receive. He would listen to Jimmy Buffett when he would be homesick and he would have moments where he thought he wasn't gonna make it in one of his missions. He would also land in schools for public displays.

He would have a going away ceremony in June , 1999 after ten years of service he was awarded sharpshooter, manitarian, sea service ribbon, national defense medal, and life saving medal he was only recognized for saving four people but he had saved much more and also had 500,000 hours in flight. When he arrived home he was offered the G.I. bill but denied it and would consider to being a police officer but was talked out of it by his parents and told him to get a safer job because he had been in a very scary and worrying job. His favorite activities would be snow skiing and riding his motorcycle. He know has two sons that might consider in following in his dads footsteps and join the military.