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### King High Remembers Biography

Jerry Bennett was born in Huntington Park, California but grew up in Long Beach, California. Jerry Bennett faced draft in 1971. His draft number was 124. Bennett moved around a lot which was one of the factors that caused him to struggle in grades 9,10, and 11, and finally after his first year in college he enlisted himself into the US Navy without telling his parents. At that time Bennett also had a brother who served in the United States Air Force.

Jerry Bennett went to boot camp at NTC San Diego from November 1971 to January 1972. Then he went to Pensacola, Florida to the Naval Communication Training Command from February 1972 to June 1972. Bennett's Military Occupational Specialty was Communication Technician, with the title later being changed to Cytological Technician. Jerry Bennett was first stationed at Naval Communication Station, Philippines, San Miguel, Philippines. While in the Philippines Bennett was part of a team running a communications station. There Bennett got to operate and work with a cryptographic decoder, and on other assignments. Jerry Bennett was part of the Naval Security Group which reported to the Director of the National Security Agency.

In late December of 1972, Bennett was sent TAD (Temporary Assigned Duty) to two ships that were region of the Vietnam War. Bennett was in charge of knowing a certain daily code so that he could message all of the other people on other ships. Bennett was also assigned to intercept Vietnamese signals, basically spying on them and reporting back information. Jerry Bennett recalls the most exciting thing that happened during his experience in Vietnam, which

was the day they signed the Paris Peace Treaty ending the war in January of 1973. He was on a ship to shore connection with an operator in the Philippines, where he was told the news. Later, he got the official message and took it to the captain of the ship, however he could not tell his shipmates about the news for over 24 hours. Bennett started on the USS Reeves from December 1972 to February 1973 and then the USS Fox, from February 1973 to May 1973. Both ships were the Northernmost US Navy ship in support of pilots that had been forced down. In late May of 1973, Jerry Bennett returned to duty at Naval Communications Stations Philippines.

Jerry Bennett was released from active duty on October 31, 1973, but however stayed active as a Reserve until September of 1976. Bennett also attended weekend duty each month at Naval Reserve Center, Los Alamitos, and two weeks active duty training each year. Jerry Bennett learned a lot from his experiences in war that he realized over time. He also learned stuff about himself and others, learned to help out and encourage others, and he learned more with touch than theory. He quotes "You can't make it on your own." War is a tough place to be in, and you need others to help you get through it. Bennett said that his faith really helped him get by each day he was serving in the war. People ask Bennett if he would join the Navy again and fight another war, and he quotes "I have nightmares of getting drafted again, and going back." After his service, Bennett went to Cal Baptist University and got his bachelor's degree. After University, Bennett worked as a youth minister in Fontana and later became a Baptist pastor. As of now Bennett has spent 29 years ministering in San Diego and will be retiring in May 2018.