

Valeria Molina, Harley Stever, Tiffany Dick

Corona

U.S. History -Per.1

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Daryl E. Brock

Daryl E. Brock was a Navy veteran who served in the Vietnam War. On March 16th, 2018 Martin Luther King High School had their 18th annual King High Remembers. Every junior that meets the requirements is able to interview a veteran of our military service. We were given the opportunity to interview Daryl E. Brock, he changed many views of aspects of our life after that interview for us. Mr. Brock has a great sense of humor and his navy jokes made the day even more memorable.

Daryl E. Brock was born in Carlsbad, New Mexico in 1948 making him 70 this year. He has lived in Riverside, California from 1960 until now. He got the idea of going into service from his father who used to serve in the Marines but he didn't like to talk about it. Mr. Brock was expected to go to college and serve if necessary. He graduated high school in 1966 and he was the first one of his family to go to a Cal State College but then realized college wasn't for him so after four quarters he dropped out of college. He began looking into which military service he liked. He knew that the Marines would not have been the best option due to his experience with a Marine veteran as a father. He finally realized that being in the Navy would be his best option and once he did, he then enlisted.

Daryl Brock enlisted in the US Navy Reserves for three and a half months before going on active duty and boot camp. Once the summer of 1968 rolled around, he began boot camp in

San Diego he quotes, "...man, in those eight weeks, I learned how to do everything the 'navy way'..." After boot camp, he went to Basic Electricity School that was located in San Diego as well and stayed there until late November. In 1968, in boot camp, he was required to take the aptitude test in which he scored in the top 3% of his class which meant he got to choose his schooling and training and he chose to serve in submarines. He extended his enlistment from four years to six years because the Navy required it for the extra schooling. During those six years he spent time at sea, training, and on shore duty. He spent about 17 months at sea, three of those months were on a carrier in Vietnam and the other fourteen he was on board a submarine making deterrent patrols. He spent about 25 months in various schools like the Electronics Technician A School at Treasure Island in California, Nuclear Power School at Mare Island Naval shipyard, and Submarine School in Connecticut training for duty jobs given to him. The rest of the months he spent at different shipyards on shore duty.

Mr. Brock was discharged on the 11th of June in 1974 and received several medals and ribbons. He told us a story about then girlfriend, now wife, he said, "I said, 'I will not marry you if I'm in active duty' and so she was stuck with me... we would send handwritten letters to each other when possible." He and his wife married in August of '74 and have been married for 43 years. He told us that even the littlest job there is needs to be done because someone's life may depend on it. He was known during his service as the "Shit Starter" he was very funny and was given that nickname because he was the jokester and felt that he was responsible to help his peers in the navy when they started to feel sad, lonely, and depressed. During his service, he was qualified as a Electronics Technician (Radar), Nuclear Power Plant Operator, in Submarines, and a Reactor Operator. He received during his time in the Navy, the Meritorious Unit

Commendation, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, and the Vietnam Service Medal. He was and still is a very humorous man who served his country with pride. The least we can do is be thankful and give him our full respect.

Mr. Brock made us realize so much in the little time we had to talk. He enlightened us with his wisdom and how much we as the younger generation take for granted. We appreciate the sacrifices he made everyday during those six years. The fact that we could interview such an important person was probably the best experience so far in my high school career. Thank you Daryl E. Brock for telling us your story and risking your life at times for my freedom. Daryl E. Brock, you may not see yourself as a hero but to us you are.