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King High Remembers Paper

Harold Doshier was born on March 8, 1948, in Pasadena, California, and raised in Riverside, California. He had always been the athletic type, having excelled in cross country, track, and wrestling. He would frequently visit his brother, who was a Marine, at camp on Visitor's Day. He was a student at Norte Vista High School, and graduated in 1966. By age 18, Mr. Doshier had decided that it was time for him to start something new, away from the home he had always known. So in 1966, upon graduating from high school, Harold Doshier decided to enlist, join the Marines, and serve his country in the Vietnam War.

Mr. Doshier was advised by his brother to volunteer for the two year enlistment program rather than the four year program. He took his brother's advice. He would then spend 9 weeks in San Diego at Camp Pendleton for boot camp- 9 weeks of intensive physical activity, drills, and training.

Mr. Doshier vividly recalls the first moments once the soon to be soldiers stepped foot on the boot camp soil. They were greeted with yelling, harassment, and promptly after, haircuts. He recalled having clammy hands and a pit in his stomach the moment he arrived. The first order of business was to shave all the heads of the new recruits. Some of the men had already shaved their heads to save themselves from the patchwork job that they would receive at the boot camp.

Mr. Doshier hadn't been so fortunate. He had to have his hair cut off at the barber shop at the boot camp, and he had to pay for it. This, however, was just the beginning.

Mr. Doshier described boot camp as an experience he would never forget. He summed up boot camp with the following phrase: "It taught me discipline." This phrase was an accurate summation of Mr. Doshier's time at boot camp. He had no access to a phone to call home. He had none of his personal belongings. He was alone. He had to sleep at attention-something he learned the hard way. His leg had bent just the slightest one night, and he received a sharp whack on the shin from his instructor. He even recalled having to sit and stand up to 20 times before being allowed to eat a meal to ensure perfection. It was difficult to adjust to the rigidity, but Mr. Doshier enjoyed the physical activities. Thanks to his athletic background, the strenuous physical activity was not difficult. But the weeks spent in training were unforgettable.

9 weeks were spent at Camp Pendleton, rather than the usual 11, due to the demand for men to be fighting in Vietnam. Shortly after completing all of his training, in 1967, Mr. Doshier was deployed to DaNang, Vietnam. His job was to guard the base, at a hill called 724. He was stationed there for 7 months as an E-4 Corporal. During his service, he never drank or smoked. Instead, he kept candy in his pockets all the time- which rats would eat out of when they could. His deployment in Vietnam ended one day, however, when two Privates tried to scare the Marines, including Mr. Doshier, by speeding up on the turns on the edges of cliffs. When the truck tipped over the cliff and crashed into the ground, front first, Mr. Doshier was left with a broken arm and a concussion. He was one of the luckier ones. 5 Marines died that day due to the dangerous accident. Mr. Doshier admits that he has nightmares about this day still. After this

incident, Mr. Doshier was sent to Guam to recover, then sent back home. This, too, was unforgettable.

Mr. Doshier's service did not end after this. He returned, this time, as a rifle instructor- a PMI Rifle Coach. Unlike many of the officers he had encountered during his training, he had resolved to be a patient and caring coach. Before his platoons had tests, he would encourage the men. His dedication did not go unnoticed, as he received recognition as "Coach of the Week". This was something he took pride in. "Drill instructors would give you hell. I never did as a rifle instructor."

Veterans returning from Vietnam were not given much respect. People were spit at, and girls would not date them. What bothered Mr. Doshier was that people who had fled the draft by moving to Canada returned to the US without receiving any punishment. Despite the poor treatment of veterans returning from the Vietnam War, Mr. Doshier was able to start a new life of his own back home. Once his service was over, Mr. Doshier was able to attend RCC and get a home through the G.I Bill. He started up a gardening business, and later went into real estate. Mr. Doshier continues to give back to his community through his volunteer service with Kiwanis. He is selfless in his willingness to give back to his community, and brave in his willingness to serve the nation. Mr. Doshier's character will never be forgotten, as he continues to inspire teens in the work that he does through Kiwanis and with King High Remembers.