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Sam Spicklemier

Period. 2

Michael Dresbach

Navy

4 Years

2018

Michael W. Dresbach

Petty Officer, 2nd class, Michael William Dresbach was born on November 4th, 1942. He was born and raised in Indianapolis, Indiana. Michael's father served in the United States Navy as a mechanic. At a time Michael was interested in doing the same thing as his dad but he changed his mind because he found out he had an aptitude for sonar technology, he had amazing hearing so he thought he would be able to hear things from the sonar device that the average person cannot. His final decision was to join the Navy to avoid getting drafted into a random branch.

Dresbach completed high school and went to college, he majored in liberal arts. He also attended school, eight hours a day for basic electricity and sonar electricity, one of the things he learned was how to solder. After completing those courses he had to learn basic firefighting skills because if a fire were to happen on the ship in the open ocean he wouldn't be able to call for help.

Once Michael completed all the training and schooling that was needed, on June 25, 1962 at the age of twenty he started his service. He got placed on the USS Ernest G Small which was a large three hundred and ninety foot long destroyer. There he was in charge of finding submarines and “sinking” them. After a few months on the USS Ernest G Small he transferred to another ship.

The USS Larson was his “home” for the duration of his service. Overseas he didn’t get to communicate with his family often and he only spoke to his wife once. Michael got to communicate with his family through letter, the mail would get picked up and dropped off by a chopper which is also known as a helicopter. On the Larson he traveled all over the world, such as Thailand, Japan, Hawaii and many more. He absolutely loved traveling around the world but his favorite place that he traveled to was Thailand, he told us that Thailand was mostly involved with the religion buddhism. There was one time on the Larson where they located a russian submarine and sat on it for hours to see if it would go above the water. They waited for more than five hours and they spotted two russian destroyers coming to save the submarine. Instead of firing on the Larson, the russian vessels challenged the United States to a drag race. The USS Larson won the race but the submarine vanished into thin air.

On board he made lots of friendships, he enjoyed playing pinochle and cribbage for entertainment. Michael enjoyed playing cribbage a lot because he is really good at math. One friendship that he mostly remembers was with his african american male friend, he said he was a good friend, he had a very deep

voice and was really funny. He also would get discriminated against because of his color. People had to get used to him, it was easy for most people but difficult for some. Most of the guys on the Larson were white, which made the diversity of nationalities small. One rule that was really important on the ship was that everyone had to get along, forget about color, race, religion and just be acquainted. Another rule that was vital on board was that you had to be very clean, Michael said that there was always that one person who would be dirty, so the men on the ship would throw that person in the water and give him soap and say “clean up!”, after that the person always became clean.

After four years, 11 months, and 27 days on August 1, 1966, Michael was honorably discharged from his position on the USS Larson and was forever a part of the United States Naval history. Nowadays Mr. Dresbach works by making beautiful trophies. He received two trophies, one was a Veteran Service Medal, and the other was a National Defense Service Medal. He told my group that he is beyond grateful that he served in the Navy because it provided him with a “life long education” and it showed him how to be the best man he could be.