

Ian Ames

Period 5

Jesse Rivera

Military Police

5 Years of Service

3/16/18

### Jesse Rivera

July 8, 1949 Jesse Rivera was born in Chicago Illinois with a family of vets that went all the way back to WWI and up. Jesse moved to California shortly after being born and grew up with 6 close friends that he later joined the military with in college. Once in the military he went through a very tough boot camp always getting pranked and teased by the other soldiers. The drill sergeants there would yell and spit into the trainees faces and would sometimes even hit them. Jesse was ok with this even though he was a little scared at first but he then saw it as a life lesson and took everything he could from it.

Going into the military Jesse thought it would be best not to marry because he did not want to put a girl through a death of a loved one. Jesse worked his way up the ranks going from a private to a lance corporal in which he would stay a corporal the rest of his deployment. Jesse was one of the more fortunate ones when it came to vietnam because he did not witness any of his friends being killed nor his unit. Jesse said he didn't even need to fire his weapon while being deployed. He did have a close encounter though. Skaggs Island, Jesse was on a regular patrol of a gate he was stationed to protect when one of his fellow soldiers stole a jeep with a 50 cal mount on the back of it and drove out of the base being shot at by other soldiers. The stolen jeep and soldier escaped with no harm. Two days later however, this jeep and soldier made a charge for

the gate Jesse was stationed at. With three other people in the jeep, the jeep then made it through the gate and the men made threats and once Jesse walked out and pointed his gun at them the 4 men gave up. Lucky for Jesse that was the only danger he had to face in his times of service.

For Jesse he was able to see his family and talk to them very often by letter and telephone. And on leave he would go down to visit family, party with friends, or just kick back and have a beer. Once the war was over he was happy that it was over and he was going home but also had a depression set in because he was going to miss the life he grew so close to along with not being able to see his friends again. When asked about how he felt about telling the truth or the truth in general he said that when he didn't believe something he would question it and see how the other person or party felt about it. Jesse would say that he would always challenge his friends on things and would even fight them for being stupid or just messing around but was always very straight forward with the truth. Jesse would use what he learned from the military when applying for a job and would get a warehouse job by using his ability to break a situation down and think positively about things and would never be negative.

Jesse saw discrimination in his life would always get told that his kids where not gonna go anywhere and would always get put down. Jesse was never rewarded with a medal but says that he doesn't mind because he doesn't need one to feel important. He claims that he would do it again in a heartbeat if the call came to him again. He meets up with his 6 friends a few times a year to hang out and talk to. Jesse also became apart of a veterans organization called the Country village Veterans Organization which helps the older and unable to do things veterans which he finds inspiring because he loves to hear the others stories. Jesse says that he is a little scared for the future because he doesn't believe that the new generation of kids are gonna know what it means to man up and fight for your country and believes that drive in people now a days

is gone. He says that back when he was younger he was thanked and loved that he served and did service and people made veterans feel a little better but in 2018 feels that no one respects the vets other than the older people.

Even though Jesse Rivera didn't go through the horrors and hardships of others in Vietnam he still played an important role. He answered the call of duty when called upon and guarded a key gate the U.S and we the people thank him for that.