

# KOREAN WAR VETERAN DONALD SCHMIDT

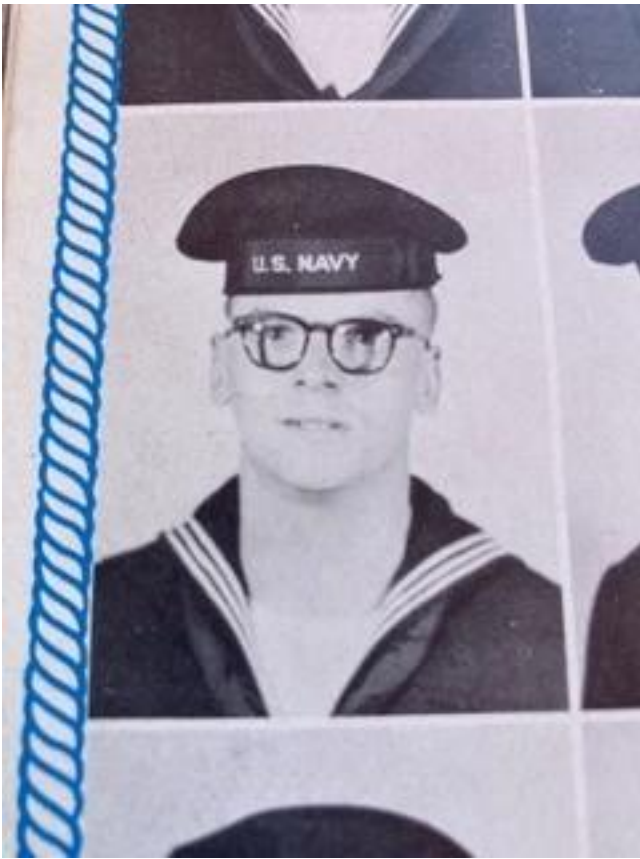
by Richard Long

President Truman reinstated the Draft in 1949. A direct result—18 year old Donald Schmidt knew that he needed to make decisions. He tried to join the Naval Construction Battalion known as Seabee's. No vacancies! So now, given his draft issue, he decided to enlist in the US Navy and at 20, headed to Great Lakes Boot Camp. Don was assigned to Deck Force on USS Piedmont AD 17 in the San Diego Harbor. After Radio Operator School at San Diego Naval Base graduating first in his class, he returned to duty on USS Piedmont, Flag Ship for Command of Cruisers & Destroyers in the Pacific.

Don's second assignment was aboard USS Hopewell DD681 which operated in the greater Pacific but also just off the coast of Korea. Don says the most danger he encountered was during the change of watch. There wasn't entrance into the Radio Shack from inside the ship. He had to hang onto the Guardrail during rough seas to get to his duty station safely. Once there, he was confused by the message received "I go now to drink". It meant the ship was going to refuel.

In the fall of 1954, Don was transferred to the new Navy communication station on Guam, Marianna Islands. Once there, his radio duties continued but the Navy added cryptography. Also while on Guam, Don witnessed, on two different occasions, Japanese Soldiers from WWII emerge from the jungle and surrender.

Don, we honor you and thank you for your service.



Don Schmidt