

# SEABEE 5 JOHN O. CASEMENT

By Richard Long

John O. Casement enlisted in the US Navy on June 18<sup>th</sup>, 1955 with his hometown recruiter in Harrison, AR. He served four years with several duty stations. Of course, his first one was Great Lakes Basic Training. That ended with a TDA (Temporary Assignment to Duty) to El Centro, California -- a short assignment to help with various construction projects.

He continued with the construction emphasis by going to Port Heuneme, CA at a 12-week Steel Workers School. From there, he went to Adak, AK, and was assigned to a Battalion Tile Crew. Then he was off to Kodiak, AK, working on a blasting crew, lengthening the runways to accommodate larger military planes and also to build civilian housing.

Following that deployment was assignment to Midway Island; that project was to build escape hatches for bomb shelters. Then he was on to Subic Bay in the Philippines with duty at the Subic Point Air Station. He remembers the very popular slogan there was: "*Better Dead than Red*", this being the common sentiment during the cold war era.

When not building, the various companies were assigned to guard duty. The guards were patrolling with "grease guns", M-3 Submachine Guns, because Communists were always trying to steal military equipment. There was also a large Black-Market Operation and therefore, lots of criminal investigations.

Off hours found John playing basketball and softball. The soldiers competed in the base leagues, even winning the championship in 1959.

*Seabee 5 John O. Casement,  
we honor you and thank you for your service.*