

COLD WAR VETERAN RICHARD TEUGH

BY Richard Long

17 year old high school senior Richard Teugh, wanted to join the Marine Reserve but his parents said no. At 18, still a senior, he joined himself. His goal was to go to boot camp at Paris Island, NC so he could be a real marine. He did and he was! Dick spent the summer of 1953 learning the ways of the military. In the fall, he entered Western Michigan to pursue a degree in engineering. However, he was way more interested in track (he held a school track record) and parties than in academics. After 3 semesters, it was time to change focus. Dick went on active duty in 1955 and was assigned to the 2nd Marine Division, 2nd Engineering Battalion. He loved the amphibious training base and the excitement of dropping from towers. But, his job assignment was bulldozer driver for shore party duty—the marines that actually built places onshore for the military to land and enter a war zone.

Dick said he didn't have the skill to drive a bulldozer. He was finally assigned a job as a draftsman. And during that time, he was a member of Camp Lejeune track team. There he stayed for the remainder of his 27 months of active duty. He then finished his active reserve duty pursuing his Bachelors Degree at Western Michigan.

An important key to this story is that the Korean War ended July 27, 1953 and all branches of the military were downsizing. Career opportunities were drastically limited. Seniority was the major factor in promotion and job assignment. Also important to remember, each and every job was as important as any other to the overall mission of the defense of the country.

Sargent Richard, we honor you and thank you for your service.



Sargent Richard Teugh