

ALL GAVE SOME; SOME GAVE ALL

This week's veteran is Jane Brackett.

Jane shares, "Like most graduating high school students, I didn't have a clue what I wanted to do with my life. Mom mentioned the possibilities of airline stewardess or the military. Besides Dad being in the service during the war, Mom had a brother-in-law who was in the navy for 26 years who also served in WWII. It sounded like he and my aunt had enjoyed their years traveling the world, so I decided to give it a try. Since my 'job' in the navy wasn't that transferable to the civilian world, I kept extending/reenlisting.

Although I was stationed in some interesting places, I regret not traveling more than I did. I think I'll always pick Guam as my favorite duty station. During our 80 hours off every five days, some of us would go "boonie stomping". We visited Tweed's Cave, the hiding place of Navy radioman, George R. Tweed, who escaped capture during the Japanese WWII occupation of Guam and the hideout of the last Japanese survivor, Shoichi Yokoi, from WWII. I learned to snorkel which is an amazing experience while I was stationed there. It had to be the clearest water in the world!

Bermuda was the prettiest with its pastel colored houses. I enjoyed each one of my duty stations. Unfortunately, not all the commands will be as memorable in a positive light, but such is life."

Jane began her twenty year Navy career, 1975-1995, at "boot camp" in Orlando, FL. In 1987, she returned to The Naval Recruit Training Command in Orlando as a company commander as she states, "as a trainer, not a trainee." During her career, she was stationed at Stockton, Ca; Guam; San Diego, CA; Ford Island, HI; Wahiawa, HI; Millington, TN; Orlando, FL; Bermuda; Keflavik, Iceland; Dam Neck, VA. She retired in September 1995.

Jane received the following medals, awards, commendations: National Defense Service Ribbon; Good Conduct Medal (5); Overseas Service Medal (6); Meritorious Unit Commendation; Navy Achievement Medal; Navy Commendation Medal.

Thank you, Senior Chief(E-8) Jane M. Brackett, for what you gave for us.