

Information gathered August 17, 2023 by Judy Allen

Navy Veteran John Beesley

John Beesley enlisted in the military to serve in the US Navy from 1970-1974. His basic training was in Orlando, Florida. Beesley was in Tech Squadron 122 and served on four different ships, all aircraft carriers based out of California. His job was aviation electrician on A-7 aircraft.

Beesley chose the Navy because that is the branch of military his father was in. When first enlisted, Beesley had worked about three months for a phone company who guaranteed employment after completion of six months. The Navy granted him those last three months with the phone company before they sent him to basic. After discharge, Beesley went back to employment with the phone company.

After basic in Orlando, he attended electrician school in Jacksonville, Florida. Although this was during the Vietnam War, Beesley did not have to go to Vietnam.

Sometimes he lived on the base and sometimes off. He married in May of 1970. His wife, Barbara, joined him in California after boot camp. His parents were James and Mary Lou Beesley of Hugo.

He said the best part of military experience is, "Serving your country." He hopes people realize that veterans spend years of their lives serving their country.