Georgia War Veterans Nursing Home

Featuring

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On the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918, an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, was declared between the Allied nations and Germany in the First World War, then known as “the Great War.” Commemorated as Armistice Day beginning the following year, November 11th became a legal federal holiday in the United States in 1938. In the aftermath of World War II and the Korean War, Armistice Day became Veterans Day, a holiday dedicated to American veterans of all wars.

Georgia War would like to thank all of the men and women who have sacrificed and served to protect and defend the United States of America.

We would like to give a special thanks to all of the individuals and organizations that have contributed to Georgia War Veteran’s Nursing Home’s mission of improving the health and reducing the burden of illness of Georgia’s War Veterans by providing excellent long term care.

https://www.history.com/topics/holidays/history-of-veterans-day
He was at the Berry Plan Yard when he got the call saying they needed a pediatrician. He had just finished his residency at Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester, NY. They explained that he would not have to do basic training to enlist and that the Berry Plan was drawn up in order for doctors to enter the service by bypassing basic training. He was not officially drafted but he did receive a letter in the mail stating “Come report to Little Creek Naval Dispensery,” where he served two years.

Dr. Crumrine was married prior to his time in the service but had no children at that point. He stated that “as the years went by our family grew by four children.” Dr. Crumrine briefly became noticeably sad and reflective. He shared that he had lost one son but that he finds comfort in knowing that his late son was dancing with the Angels when the Braves won the World Series. This thought brought back Dr. Crumrine’s joyful smile. He proudly listed his children’s accomplishments and expressed his love for James, Rebecca, and Andrew.

His job insisted that he treat/examine 300 children and their mothers once a month. Although he was not treating the mothers, the children had to come with a parent. When he was on call, he would see approximately 144 patients on base.
My advice to anyone going into the Navy?
I would tell them to go to college first and then join the military because education comes first and is most important. He highly recommends joining the Navy because you get a paycheck and lots of experience. He stated that he had a very supportive father who supported him financially until he went into the Navy. The Navy opened many doors for him including buying his first house, a car, his own groceries, and even his own dog. The Navy really started him on his way. “It helps young people get started in the right direction.”

When asked if he missed being in the service he stated that he does not miss anything because he stayed connected and attached to the universities and his practice as a pediatrician taking care of babies and children. His career is what made him feel “special.”

What did you find out about yourself?
“That I could be a doctor and care for people and I would not have it any other way.”

Pictures from: https://jagwire.augusta.edu/veteran-retired-physician-still-a-teacher-to-others/
I retired from the Army after 21 years. I enlisted in the Army in 1959 at 17 years old. The reason I joined is to get a good education and see the world. I did my basic training at Fort Jackson, S.C. I would have never thought as a farm boy that I would get to see Europe, Paris, and the Berlin Wall in addition to so many beautiful places. I kept in touch with my family by writing letters. I met many friends but the one I remember most is Ron Hogan from Montana. Now we went and had some fun! We never got caught though.

After I got out of the Army, I did heavy construction work. For the most part, I really enjoyed 21 years through all the good times and the bad. I would say to all who ask that the Army was great for me and I would do it all over again.
I graduated from high school and enlisted in the Navy at the age of 18 years old. Memphis, Tennessee is where I went to school and met my wife. We had a set of twins (one boy and one girl) and two more girls. We divorced and I remarried. My second wife and I went on to have three more children. Each wife had a child from previous relationships, so in total I have nine children.

Choosing a Branch of Service:
He was inspired by his Uncle Junior (WWII Navy Seaman) to join the Navy over any of the other branches. When asked how he kept in touch with his family, he smiled and said by writing letters whenever he could because “you know we didn’t have computers or this great technology that we have now.” The hardest time he ever had was leaving his family when the Navy would send him a telegram requesting him to return to duty after only spending one day with his family, even though the Navy had given him two weeks of leave.

Basic Training:
Basic training was like “hell” in San Diego in the summer heat. From jumping jacks, pushups, marching from class to class on hot pavement; it was “hot, hot, hot, just so hot.” We got up at 4am standing in formation for breakfast. Food was great morning, noon, and evening meals and if you missed a meal due to “Flight Quarters” (all hands on deck) the cafeteria was open 24/7.

Where did you serve?
I served in Hong Kong, Italy, Spain, France, the Mediterranean, and several other places.

Funny and almost tragic:
We went out partying and drinking one night before the ship was to leave at 8am the next morning and I overslept. I was living in the quarters across town and had to take a bus to get to the ship. I hopped on the bus but it was going far too slow. Two stops prior to the ships port, I jumped off the bus and ran the final length. By the time I arrived, the loading plank had been lifted and I had to beg and plead for them to let it back down. If I missed that ship, I would have gone to jail and been put out of the Navy. After pleading and begging on my knees, the plank was let down and I was allowed to board the ship.
What do you appreciate the most?
I appreciate “Freedom”; the word “Freedom” itself. My advice to other men and women who are thinking of joining the service is: If there is not a war going on it’s a great thing and you get to see the world by traveling, you get medical coverage, 30 days paid leave, and good food. BUT, if there is a war going on, wait; I don’t recommend you join.
When were you drafted or when did you enlist?
“March 3, 1966,” the Army wanted me and “I said nuh uh and went to see the Navy.” I wasn’t going to Vietnam, then found out they had ships in Vietnam, (oops) but by then they weren’t letting me go; I had a top secret clearance.”

What do you remember about the day you enlisted?
“I was in Cleveland.” I ignored my draft notice and went to the Navy instead of the Army.

What was basic training like?
“It was tough, cause nobody is ever ready for basic training. It’s all brand new. None of us were in shape so they were there to get us in shape, and it was winter time so it was cold.”

I would rate it a 5 out of 10. A couple of guys could have rated it lower. Like one guy—they threatened to take in the shower and scrub him down with a stiff bristle brush because he wouldn’t shower, but he took a shower every night after that.

Where did you serve during the war?
I served both in the Pacific and Atlantic Ocean under water, “big and black and never come back.”

What does that mean?
“We were out there until we almost ran out of food.”
How did you stay in touch with your friends and family back home?

“They gave us what they called family grams. We were allowed five of them to send to parents, friends, girlfriends. They could write as much as they wanted and they would have it to whoever they wanted, but we were in Hawaii. The Navy would type it up and give us what was ours. But, when you are under water, it is kind of hard to send anything up. Ink tends to run a little bit. Ha-Ha. I didn’t get too many family grams so I started giving mine away.”

Was there anything you especially missed about civilian life?

“I guess over my lifetime I would have to say what I missed was a higher paying job. I wasn’t making enough in the Navy. They don’t pay the enlisted men what they work hard for. Somebody figured it out one day, did all the math, and said we make about three cents an hour.”

What are you supposed to do with that?

“Work a lot of hours.” We were out to sea for 62 days, they counted every day, every hour, so it did add up, just not high enough.”

What are some fun things you and your friends did together while employed?

“It was Friday or Saturday night, they had specials, and one night they had a gambling night with limits only so high so the guys wouldn’t spend their whole pay check. I wasn’t a gambler so I didn’t participate, but the movies, everyone went to the movies. It’s really all we had to do. We would work, eat, go the movies and then go to sleep because they kept the oxygen levels so low so it would make us tired. When they had special things they had planned, they would raise the oxygen level, so it got down to 16% and about 20% which is regular oxygen level.”

Did you ever get caught breaking any rules?

“My first patrol, my Captain caught me on watch with my headphones listening to music. He sent me to talk to the Senior Watch Stander, so I just quit listening to music.”
When did you leave the military and what was the process like?
“I left in December of 1965. I went through a check list, made sure I turned in everything I had to turn in, and the last day they gave me my final pay check and escorted me out of the gate.”

What were the first few months out of the Service like?
“It was a scramble looking for work, because they had trained me for specialized jobs so it was hard to find something to fit into. There’s not too many civilian missile techs out there, ha-ha.”

How do you think your time in the military affected you?
“It got me some schooling that allowed me to turn my job into a career once I got out.”

What did you learn about yourself?
“You want the truth? That I wasn’t a leader. I had a tendency to be lazy, but I didn’t say I was lazy. So see me being here (Georgia War) fits right in, I get to sleep and don’t have responsibilities other than keeping myself in shape, and finding something to keep me occupied so I don’t go stir crazy.”
Mr. Charles Carroll, cont.

What are some of the things that you miss about being in the Service? What are some that you disliked?

“I’m glad I left the politics behind, the low pay behind, and I miss the travel. I only went to three overseas ports in my 9 years, 9 months, 3 days, but who’s counting? Ha-Ha. Although, I did like being overseas, except for Guam. One flight attendant almost got beat up because we were coming in and she was talking over the mic and she said ‘Remember guys, Guam is good, but no one likes Guam.’ The beer was horrible; in order for it to stay fresh enough to drink, they put formaldehyde in it. I got to spend three years and two months in Hawaii and in Scotland (only one month every six months). I enjoyed Hawaii and Scotland. If I had wanted to, I would go back to Scotland to visit; the mountains and fresh air, and I enjoyed the people and the fish and chips. I think that’s where I got my salt problem from. They used to salt ‘em up, man it was good! Well, it was better than eating the mutton (mature sheep). Lamb tastes good, but after the first year, something changes in their body and the mutton I heard was terrible. I spent three or four days in Spain. I got one day of liberty on the beach and our officer in charge took us out and about. I didn’t like Charleston, South Carolina; it was wet, hot, and flat. I did like the seafood there though. In South Carolina (Charleston), you don’t just buy prepackaged shrimp, you buy it by the pound. They had so much!”
VETERAN’S DAY WORD SEARCH

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ARMY
NAVY
NOVEMBER
AMERICAN
COMMEMORATE
PATRIOT
VIETNAM WAR

AIR FORCE
INFANTRY
HERO
VETERANS
HONOR
MILITARY
NATIONAL GUARD

COAST GUARD
MARINES
GRATITUDE
FLAGS
PARADES
MEDALS
RESPECT

WORLD WARS
SOLDIERS
TROOPS
SALUTE
KOREAN WAR
THANKS
When were you drafted or when did you enlist?
“1966, I enlisted.”

What do you remember about the day you enlisted?
“Uh, well, I went down to the recruiting office with my father and we sat down and talked to the recruiter. I wanted to be a laboratory technician, but he didn’t have any openings for that. So, I chose to be a surgical technician. I got to stick my hands in people’s guts.”

What was basic training like?
“Some of the worst and best eight weeks of my life. It was a lot of physical activity and I was not, shall we say, in the best of physical shape. So, that was difficult for me, but I got through it by the skin of my teeth. I was at Fort Benning for training, then I went to Fort Sam Houston, where I completed my medical training except for OJT (on the job training). I did my on the job training at Fort Stewart, Georgia where I learned hands on.”

Can you describe a funny moment from boot camp?
“Well, there was a member of my platoon who was a problem for me. I was a platoon leader and he was a problem, and he hated being in the Army. When it was time to go to our next level of training, we couldn’t find him because he was hiding under the barracks. He didn’t want to leave because he became acclimated to that environment. So, I had to talk to him under the barracks to get him to move on. That’s where I learned that leading wasn’t just giving orders, it was helping people with “psychological problems.”

Where did you serve during the war?
“I was in Vietnam and I was on a team. We had two surgeons, an Anesthesiologist, a male nurse, and then the three technicians. We went where we were most needed.”
How did you stay in touch with your family back home?
“I had a little tape recorder. I would make tapes and send them, and they would make tapes and send them back. The very first Charlie Brown TV show came on and my mother thought it would be fun to tape it for me. The first episode was 99% music, so I was thinking ‘what the heck is this?’ Then she explained what she was trying to do.”

Can you describe how you felt coming home from combat?
“Well, I was glad to be alive and I was glad to see my family, but I still had another year to go in the Army. So, I was participating where I needed to be which happened to be the United States Army Institute of Surgical Research. We worked on animals, experimented on them. I know people freak out when you say ‘experimented on animals,’ but it’s better than experimenting on people.”

What are some fun things you and your friends did together while you were deployed?
“Well, um, we were at the 8th Field Hospital right on the beach so we went swimming, we went into town at night and had dinner, or went to a bar or brothel. We also played basketball, a lot of basketball. Some volley ball. They had an NCO club (non-commissioned officers club). There was marijuana, at the time (it was the 60’s). Drugs were a big problem for the military because a lot of people were doing more than just marijuana. So that became a problem, but not for me, I just stuck to grass.”

Did you ever get caught breaking any rules? Did you ever get away with something you weren’t supposed to do?
“Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. Breaking rules is a major past time for enlisted people, at least for us.”

How do you think your time in the military affected you?
“Well, it gave me some skills to use when I got out and went back to school. It gave me a job to do on the weekends and at night while I was going to class at day. Also, I enjoyed helping the people I was operating on.”
What phrase or word will never be the same now that you served?
“Grew up in a military family, so it wasn’t like I ran into something I didn’t expect or run into a word I didn’t really know.”

Is there anything you wish civilians understood about military service?
“I wish they understood more of the sacrifice that is made.”

What are some habits that you developed in the Service that you like? What are some that you dislike?
“That’s just really difficult for me to answer, because I grew up in a military family so nothing was new. Sleeping in a room with 100 other guys was different, I disliked that.”

What are some things you miss about being in the Service? What are some things you are glad to have left behind?
“Well, given the fact that it was a war zone, I don’t miss getting shot at. I enjoyed the camaraderie and the team work.”

Do you have any friends you miss?
There’s one guy that was on my team, Frank. Last I heard he was living in Chicago. His children probably have their own children now.
In Hallowed Halls
(Directed to all CNA’s)
by Duane Seaborn

In the hallowed halls of Blue Goose I stumble, I tremble, I turn. “Where am I?” my soul cries. “Where am I today?”

“Lie in some rice paddy, wounded, bleeding, scared? On march I with my comrades in the death march to Bataan?

Fog, gray fog, embraces my poor, my tired old brain. Swirling fog, miasmic cloud, cries out “Old man, fall down! You ancient husk, you sorry thing, fall down, fall down and die!”

But no, from out the cloud, from out the fog, appears a blue gloved hand.

Encasing gently my poor bones with touch of love and gentleness, a tender tug leads me out, out from the fog of Hell.

A soft voice, angelic tones, whispers “Follow me! Follow me, you precious, you dear, sweet man.”

Soon in bed, from out the fog, from out the cloud, as sleep enshrouds my head, Mother’s voice rings in my ears the old, the childhood prayer. “Now I lay me down to sleep; I pray thee Lord, my soul to keep. If I should die before I wake, I pray thee Lord, my soul to take.”

Midst sound of wind chimes from above, again comes Mama’s voice “Hush, my son, sleep well, sleep well I pray.”

Amen!!

Duane Seaborn, U. S. Navy, U. S. Army
Korean War, Vietnam War, Cold War
Veteran’s Day

Word Search Solution

NATIONAL GUARD

VETERAN'S DAY GRATITUDE

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Thank you for your service