

V.E.T.S.

Hi to all my friends and family that was so kind as to send cards and letters and notes to me after My Honor Flight to Washington, D.C. It was an awesome trip and I enjoyed it very much. I only Wish all of you could have been there with me to enjoy the sights as I did. I want to tell you all a little about myself Just in case you were wondering. First I will start with my Navy career!

Reserve and regular Navy I served 23 years from 1952 to 1974. I was on 5 ships - the U.S.S. Randolph CVA15 – then the U.S.S. Outpost AGR10 – then the U.S.S. Northampton CC1 - after that on the U.S.S. Wright CC2 - then my last ship was the U.S.S. Intrepid CVA11. I was on the decommissioning crew of the Intrepid and then put it in mothballs and retired. I served two tours in the Joint Chiefs of Staff - the first was during the Kennedy administration and the second during Johnsons presidency. I spent one tour on CINCLANT Staff in Norfolk, Va. I spent the first 5 years in Naval Aviation at Cecil Field, Jacksonville, Fla. First in VF62 (Fighter Squadron 62) as a plane captain - then in the staff of the air group ATG202 (Air Task Group 202) Then in CAG4 (Carrier Air Group 4) and then in RAG4 (Replacement Air Group 4) Our mission was to train pilots on Carrier landings with jet airplanes. I was married to my wife for 59 yrs. until she passed away 3 yrs. Ago. We had 4 children 3 boys and 1 girl.

I have never considered myself a hero in any since of the word. I just felt like I was serving my country. What did make me feel very special was the cards, letters and notes that all of you sent me upon my return from this trip. I want to thank you very much for your time and effort doing this and as an old Sailor I will always keep this in my heart.

With love and affection - I remain - indeted to you all



Howard T. Hitsman

Chief Yeoman, USN, Retired

THANK YOU FOR THE MANY CARDS AND NOTES!!  
I WAS TRULY TOUCHED BY YOUR KINDNESS.  
GOD BLESS YOU ALL,