

A VETERAN'S STORY

Frank Rivas

NAVY 1943-1952

Frank Rivas was born on November 2, 1922 in San Francisco, California. His parents were Frances and Tilly Rivas. Frank and his two sisters and one brother grew up in the San Francisco Bay area.

Frank's mother worked at American Can Company. He doesn't remember much about his dad. Frank remembers Mrs. Delores was his Grammar School teacher and he attended Sacred Heart School in San Francisco.

Growing up, Frank had a paper route where he delivered newspapers before he headed off to school in the morning. He also sold papers in the afternoons after school. While Frank never gave much thought to what he wanted to be when he grew up - he does know that he LOVES strawberry ice cream.

Frank served in the Navy during World War II and in the Korean War. It's estimated that around 400,000 Americans served in both the Korean Conflict and World War II.

In 1943, when Frank entered the service, there were nearly seven million American young men

in the Army alone, and over nine million total serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Of those individuals in the Armed Forces, nearly 40% of U.S. servicemen and all U.S. servicewomen were volunteers. The other 60%

were draftees. The average duration of service was 33 months.

The overwhelming majority (73%) of those serving in the Armed Forces during these years, spent time overseas (the average period spent abroad was 16 months). The average base pay of an enlisted man was \$71.33 per month and \$203.50 per month for of-



ficers.

Frank's World War II Navy service took him to New Guinea, Guam and throughout the islands of the South Pacific. He remembers working in the shipyards.

When World War II ended, he re-enlisted and soon after he married his wife (Grace).

Frank believes that if it had not been for the atomic bomb - his and millions of other lives would have been lost. Atomic bombs were



Today, Frank lives at Chippewa Manor Nursing and Rehabilitation in Chippewa Falls, WI. He proudly celebrated his 100th birthday on November 2, 2022.

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