

# BOB STERLING

## Veteran of Viet Nam and 20 years service in the U. S. Navy



Bob Sterling was born in 1940 in Baltimore, Maryland. After growing up on and around the waters of the Chesapeake Bay and attending various schools in Baltimore and Towson, Maryland, Bob joined the U. S. Navy in January 1958 at the age of seventeen. He was sent to boot camp in Great Lakes, Illinois and was promoted to Seaman Apprentice at the completion.

After boot camp, Bob was assigned to Storekeeper "A" School in Newport, Rhode Island and learned how to account for repair parts and supplies used on ships throughout the fleet. Upon graduating, Bob was ordered to Naval Air Station Atsugi, Japan where he remained until May 1961. During his tour in Japan he was promoted various times, attaining the rate of SK2 (E5). After reenlisting in Japan he was ordered to USS Energy (MSO-436) in Long Beach, California. During that tour he qualified as an underway OOD as well as providing all supply services for the ship.

A year after reporting to Energy, Bob was ordered to the staff of the Naval Training Center, Newport, RI. During that tour he was promoted to SK1 (E6). At the end of that tour he volunteered for submarine duty but was rejected because he is color blind. So he was ordered to the USS Skywatcher (AGR-3) in Davisville, RI. Shortly after reporting aboard, the ship was decommissioned, and Bob was sent to the Naval Facility in Andros Island, Bahamas. But his tour there was short because he received orders to Viet Nam in August 1965 to serve as an advisor to the Vietnamese Navy. So, after escape and evasion training, Bob reported to the Naval Advisory Group in Danang in October 1965. He served a year in Danang and then, after extending his tour, he served a year in Qui Nhon. During those tours, as well as providing supply advice, he participated in coastal, river, and land patrols with his Vietnamese counterparts, often in combat situations. During his tour in Viet Nam, Bob was promoted to SKC (E7).

After Viet Nam Bob served a year on USS Dahlgren (DLG-12) and was then ordered to the staff of the Commander Amphibious Force, U. S. Atlantic Fleet in Little Creek, Virginia. During that tour he was on the inspection team that evaluated Atlantic Fleet amphibious ships for their competency in providing their internal supply and fiscal services. At the



end of that tour Bob was promoted to SKCS (E8) and received orders to USS Mount Whitney (LCC-20) as its Stores Officer. In that position he was responsible for all repair parts and supplies for the ship. He had a division of 12 storekeepers. During his tour on Mount Whitney, Bob was promoted to SKCM (E9). He had only 15 years of service when he was promoted. After that tour, Bob finished his career as a human resource



management specialist in Charleston, SC and Norfolk, VA. He attained his Associates Degree before retiring.

After retiring Bob worked for Miller Brewing Company in Eden, NC as their storeroom supervisor. He left Miller and went back to college, attaining his Bachelors Degree in 1980. He then moved to the Washington, DC area and worked for three different consulting firms in Naval Supply and management information services. In 1990 he resigned from that endeavor and moved to South Carolina where he developed a software system that assists veterans in obtaining services and compensation from the VA. He sold that company in 2010 and retired.