



**Ernest Benson**

**1. What made you want to enter the military service?**

I felt it was my obligated duty as a citizen and family tradition to share in protecting the country. My grandfather, three uncles and two older cousins served in the Army and Navy.

**2. What branch of service did you join and why?**

I joined the United States Navy. The Navy had the best medical program.

**3. How many years did you serve? 20 years**

**4. What was your rank upon discharge? Petty Officer First Class**

**5. What has been your greatest achievement in the military?**

Surviving Desert Storm

**6. What lesson did you learn while in the military that you still use today?**

The world is not fair. You must prepare yourself to overcome all obstacles. Education is the key to success whether formal or informal.

**7. Did your military service influence your life today? Yes, I fell in love with Preventive Medicine in the Navy. I continued to work in the same field after my military service. The civilian world calls it Public Health.**

**8. Tell us a funny story that could only happen in the military?**

I was stationed in San Diego, California at Balboa Naval Hospital. My work site was Recruit Training Command San Diego. We had a phantom eater onboard. (That is a person, who eats other people's food in the refrigerator).

After months of going to the refrigerator to eat lunch or dinner while on duty, you would find your food gone. A group of us decided to put Syrup of Ipecac in our food. It was the drug used in poisoning to induce vomiting. It turned out that it was a female eating our food. She threw up for two days. LOL The doctors were not pleased with what we had done. On the other hand, our Chief Petty Officer, who was her victim also, decided she got what she deserved. A few sick days taught her a lesson.

**9. What duty station did you most enjoy? San Diego, California**

**10. Why did you choose your military job specialty?**

My grandmother and three aunts were nurses. They took care of me so it rubbed off on me to care for the sick and injured.