



BROOKHAVEN NATIONAL LABORATORY VETERANS ASSOCIATION



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Looking back, I can't quite believe it's been over thirty years since enlisting in the Navy. In those days, I served in what was classified as peacetime service. My rating was that of a Hull Maintenance Technician (HT) and began in the Engineering Department onboard my first command, the USS *America* CV-66. Following a 7 month deployment to the Mediterranean and being initiated as a trusted Shellback into the *Ancient Order of the Deep* during a memorable six week South American cruise; with liberty call in exotic Rio de Janeiro, I transferred off *America* to the USS *Fulton* AS-11 berthed in New London, CT.

Of the two years stationed here, we deployed once on a 9 day jaunt to Halifax, Nova Scotia (some said the purpose of the cruise was to clean the barnacles from the keel!). I enjoyed my time in Connecticut completing my enlistment as a petty officer and fortunate too in witnessing one more memorable event. The USS *Nautilus*, the world's first nuclear powered submarine was sailing up the Thames River heading out to sea to on her final voyage. Watching her sail by was pretty amazing and thus ending my service to this great country to a close. I was honorably discharged having served faithfully for four years.

After the Navy I was employed with Grumman as an F-14 mechanic in Calverton, NY. I decided to attend night school using the GI bill and obtained my degree in Fire Protection. I left Grumman and have been at the Laboratory going on 16 years. I have been extremely fortunate in having met so many interesting people on my path in life and look forward to sharing in the camaraderie with members of the BVA.