



BROOKHAVEN NATIONAL LABORATORY VETERANS ASSOCIATION



**Louis C. Gerlach, US Navy
Master Chief Operations Specialist**

A native of Long Island, New York, Master Chief Gerlach enlisted in the United States Navy in September 1970 at the age of 17. Upon completion of 13 weeks of recruit training at Naval Training Center, Great Lakes, Illinois, he reported to Radarman "A" School for 16 weeks of classroom training, also at Great Lakes. Upon graduation, he reported aboard the USS Intrepid (CVS-11), home ported in Quonset Point, Rhode Island. During his three years aboard, he made two Mediterranean Sea and two North Atlantic cruises. He was also part of the decommissioning crew of the USS Intrepid in 1974.

Master Chief Gerlach joined the Naval Reserves in 1974. His reserve units from 1974 through 2001 include the USS Hoist (ARS040), USS Patterson (FF-1061), USS Edson (DD-946), USS Puget Sound (AD-38), USS Guadalcanal (LPH-7), and USS Pensacola (LDS-38). He also served with Readiness Command Region 2 staff.

In 1994, Master Chief Gerlach was selected to attend the 9-week Senior Enlisted Academy at Newport, Rhode Island. In 1996 and 1998, he served on two Commander Naval Reserve Force Policy Boards, and has also served on six Senior Enlisted Selection Boards.

For six years, from November 1994 through January 2001, Master Chief Gerlach served as Command master Chief of the Amityville Reserve Center in Amityville, New York, overseeing 400 reserves assigned to the Center. Due to high year tenure, he stepped down from the CMC position and presently drills with the volunteer training unit.

As a reservist, Master Chief Gerlach earned his Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist pin aboard the USS Guadalcanal (LPH-7) and Enlisted Aviation Warfare Specialist pin aboard the USS Enterprise (CVN-69) in 1990 and 1998, respectively.

Master Chief Gerlach has served the Navy for 35 years. His personal decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with God Star, and numerous campaign and service awards.

In civilian life, Master Chief Gerlach has been employed at Brookhaven National Laboratory, under contract with the U.S. Department of Energy, as a Technical Research Associate for the past 27 years. For 20 years he has also been a volunteer fireman for the Kings Park Fire Department.