



The Bugle

Ocean Hills Village Vets

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Commander's Corner

Captain Bob Bechill, SC, USNR-R.

Brrrr! Let's Talk Cold (War)

As I sit here wondering why I haven't turned on the air conditioning yet, my mind starts drifting to all things cold: an ice-cold soda, a cold cut sandwich, my golf game... and yes, that cold stare my wife gives me when I mess something up. But let me be clear—Pookies (my wife) is the most caring and loving person I know. Her advice is always spot-on and given with love!

But speaking of "cold," there's something else that fits the theme—and it's especially meaningful to many of us: The Cold War. Most of us served during this tense time in

history, but what exactly was the Cold War? When did it happen? And why does it still matter?

The Cold War lasted from about 1947 to 1991. It wasn't a traditional war with armies clashing on a battlefield, but a long stretch of political and military tension between the United States and its allies, and the Soviet Union and its allies. It was a battle of ideologies—democracy versus communism—fought through military buildup, threats, spying, propaganda, and proxy wars.

Even though the U.S. and Soviet Union never directly went to war, the Cold War brought us into major global conflicts. One of the first was the Korean War (1950–1953), where U.S. and United Nations forces helped defend South Korea from a communist invasion by the North, backed by China and the Soviet Union. Many of our own Village Vets served during or around this time.

Other key moments included the Cuban Missile Crisis, the Vietnam War, the Berlin Airlift, and the eventual fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989. These moments defined an entire generation of service members and reshaped the world we know today.

So while the outside air might still be warm, let's take a moment to reflect on the Cold War—a chapter of our shared service that

continues to echo through history to the present day.

Cold War Quick Facts

- Start: 1947 (after WWII)
- End: 1991 (collapse of the Soviet Union)
- Main Players: United States & NATO vs. Soviet Union & Warsaw Pact
- Key Conflicts: Korean War, Vietnam War, Cuban Missile Crisis
- Symbol of the Era: The Berlin Wall (1961–1989)



West Berliners tearing down part of the wall as East German guards looked on, on Nov. 11, 1989. Credit...Keith Pannell/Mail on Sunday, via Reuters Image and NYT.

Know a Village Vet who served during the Cold War? Invite them to share a story or photo for a future newsletter issue!

Stay cool and stay proud,

Cap'n Bob

A VET IN OUR VILLAGE

Doug Andrusky



Photo courtesy Doug

Doug is originally from Somerville, NJ, but grew up in Scotch Plains, NJ, which is about an hour west of New York City, depending on traffic. He went to high school in Scotch Plains, and went to Rutgers University, completing a Bachelor of Arts in 1967. Needless to say, 1967 was a bad time to be losing a 2S deferment. The US force level in Vietnam was almost at its peak, just under half a million.

Doug was in fact promptly drafted into the Army in July 1967. He went through Basic at Fort Leonard Wood, MO, and advanced training for artillery at Fort Sill, OK. Since he was a college graduate, the Army offered Doug a chance to become an officer by going through OCS. It seemed like a good idea, but a friend counseled him that, as a second lieutenant in Artillery, his first job would probably be as a

forward observer in Vietnam. Forward observers had a life expectancy that could be just a few weeks. Well, Doug is still with us so it seems he turned it down.

Doug's unit was planned to go to Vietnam, but the USS *Pueblo* was seized by North Korea in January 1968, and Doug's unit was sent to South Korea instead. Doug was doing fire direction control for Artillery. He spent a year in Korea, near the DMZ.

Doug separated from the Army in June 1969 as a Spec 5. He got a job in New York working for Continental Oil allocating oil shipments from the Middle East and South America. He resumed his education and obtained an MBA from Pace University (NYC) in Labor Management Relations. In 1971 he married Cathy Misewich, an elementary school teacher, and they have been together for 54 years.

In 1973, during the OPEC embargo, he was recruited by the Federal Energy Administration because of his oil industry experience. He worked in New York, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. In 1978, he changed careers and worked in insurance and financial planning with Metropolitan Life. He worked for the Met until retirement in 2008.

Doug and Cathy moved to San Diego County in 1981 and bought a home in Santee. In 2015 they moved to OHCC. Doug is a member of the Village Vets and plays guitar and sings with the Hot Shots musical group, Wednesday mornings

at the clubhouse. Like many of us, he misses the Spanish classes we used to have in the clubhouse. And he is one of our prized volunteers who deliver the Bugle every month.

Editor's Note:



Last month's Vet is named Ken **Donohew**. I mangled his name. No excuse.

USS Cod (SS-224)



In 1945, USS *Cod* made the only international sub-to-sub rescue when it saved the crew of the grounded Dutch 0-19. The Dutch crew was so thankful that they later held a big party for the U.S. crew. The *Cod* commemorated the event by adding a martini glass to its scoreboard. (Courtesy US Naval Institute.)