



VETERANS' REVEILLE CERTIFICATE OF COMMENDATION

IS AWARDED TO

PETTY OFFICER WILLIAM "BILL" BASSETT, US NAVY Veteran



FOR EXTRAORDINARY SERVICE TO HIS COUNTRY!
"WE FEW, WE HAPPY FEW... WE BAND OF BROTHERS"

JUNE 6, 2025

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**CITATION ACCOMPANYING PETTY OFFICER BILL BASSETT'S (US NAVY VET)
REVEILLE CERTIFICATE OF COMMENDATION**

US Navy Veteran, Petty Officer William “Bill” Bassett, was born and raised in a tight-knit neighborhood on the West Side of Chicago to English-Irish and Sicilian parents. Born to a family of six, including twin brothers and a sister, Bill's first act of family allegiance was to declare himself a Chicago Cubs fan for life and Ernie Banks as his favorite player. His father was a union truck driver, and three of his uncles served in the Army during World War II and the Korean War. After high school, he and three of his classmates decided to join the Navy together. Following his enlistment, Bill reported to boot camp at Naval Station Great Lakes near Chicago and received specialty training to be a “machinist.” Thus began his honorable service in the Navy, serving four consecutive years from 1960 to 1964 aboard the **Destroyer Tender USS Piedmont** and the **Attack Amphibious Cargo Ship USS Seminole**. Bill and his shipmates were part of the sprawling **US Seventh Fleet in Yokosuka, Japan**, responsible for servicing and maintaining the fleet's destroyers. His primary responsibility during his numerous deployments was to serve as part of a three-man team that operated smaller Liberty boats, ferrying supplies and other personnel back and forth between ports and ships. During one of his many deployments while there, Bill recalls his most challenging cruises while in the crowded Hong Kong Harbor, his ship, the USS Piedmont, collided with a civilian vessel. It was all-hands-on-deck, he remembers, as all their training was put to the test as they attempted to save lives on the other boat. During his second deployment on the smaller USS Seminole, he recalled the horrific experience of riding out a typhoon at sea, as it was standard operating procedure in the fleet to leave port and ride out the storm at sea.

Upon completing his service in the Navy and returning home, Bill was able to leverage his experience as a machinist and leadership experience as a Navy Petty Officer to secure a position at Western Engine, a large firm in Chicago. Due to his military background and experience, he recalls being hired on the spot for a much sought-after union job with the company. He worked for the Western Engine Company for 12 years, rising quickly through the ranks to a supervisor. In 1976, influenced by a close friend, he moved his family to the Atlanta area, where he purchased a home in Newnan and worked as a distributor for Detroit and Dixie Engine companies. Later in 2001, the family discovered St George Island, purchased two lots, and built a second home on the west end of the island. He met Mary Lou, and as they say, ‘the rest is history.’ He and Mary Lou have quickly blended into the culture and life on SGI and in Franklin County, becoming a mainstay in the community. They have been faithful supporters of civic and charitable activities, including the REVEILLE. On a side note, Bill's love for the sea did not diminish when he left the Navy; he and Mary Lou are renowned for having accumulated tens of thousands of sea miles on cruises to various destinations around the world, a favorite pastime in retirement.

For his distinguished achievements in the US Military and Civilian Life, we recognize Navy Veteran, Petty Officer William “Bill” Bassett, with this VETERANS REVEILLE Certificate of Commendation. Navy Veteran, Petty Officer Bassett's service is in keeping with the finest tradition of the Military. It reflects great credit upon himself, the United States Navy, fellow Veterans, and the United States of America.

HONORING PETTY OFFICER WILLIAM "BILL" BASSETT (USN VET) REVEILLE CERTIFICATE OF COMMENDATION

Petty Officer
William "Bill" Bassett's
Ships at Sea

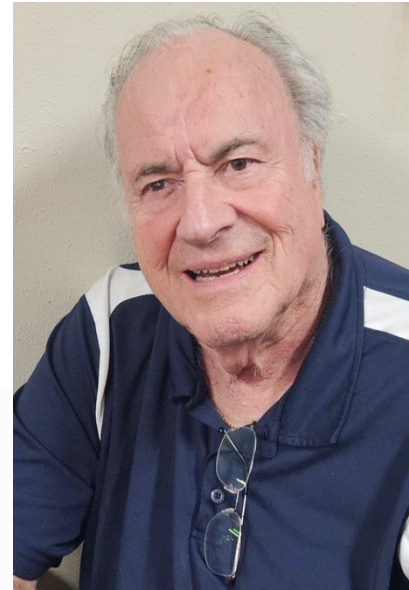
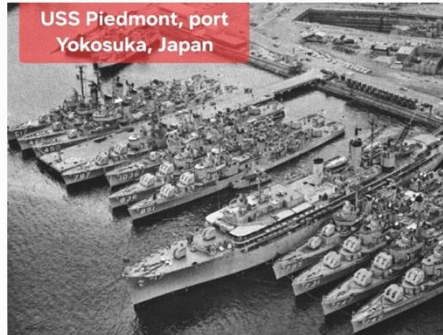
USS Piedmont



USS Seminole, Attack
Cargo Ship



USS Piedmont, port
Yokosuka, Japan



Liberty Boats Transporting Sailors



