

Ron Anderson – July 2014

I'm not a writer, so I'm not sure how to start. After high school I went to Denver Auto Tech, to learn a trade. That was back in the day of the Draft. To avoid being drafted into the military for two years, I enlisted in the Navy for four years (April 26, 1965 - April 26, 1969). For those of you who know me, Math was never one of my strengths. I went to basic training at Great Lakes Naval training center, and when it came time to pick a school, I put in for three Mechanics choices. The Navy sent me to Radar School. At the end of School we were supposed to pick the coast, and type of ship we preferred. I put in for a Cruiser or Destroyer off the East coast. The Navy sent me to an Aircraft Carrier (The U.S.S Bonhome Richard) off the West coast. We spent most of a year in dry dock transforming the World War Two Carrier to a more modern version (replaced the wooden flight deck with a steel flight deck). Then it was off for two lovely pleasure cruises to Viet Nam.

After the service I came to Fort Dodge. My parents had moved back when my Father was transferred back here. The transfer was due to the flash floods of 1967 wiping out the U.S. Gypsum plant in Loveland. I went to Iowa Central Community College for my AA degree. I was married in 1971, and went to Northwest Missouri State to study Computer science. Half way through my senior year I took some time off to work a summer job at U.S. Gypsum in Fort Dodge. My eldest son was born that September so I decided to stay on a little longer. At U.S.G. I worked as a lab technician, and the lab supervisor. Four children and thirty five years later I decided it was time to retire. During the years the kids were growing up we took vacations to Colorado every summer for hiking and backpacking. In 1990 I was divorced.

When I retired, I purchased my first computer. I have enjoyed reconnecting with many of you classmates on Facebook. Other retirement activities include hanging with my Grand children. I have one Grandson and four Granddaughters. My Grandson plays Baseball for the Middle school, so I have been busy traveling to all of his games. His sister is on the Swim team, so my summer has been busy. The other three Granddaughters live a distance from me, but I enjoy traveling to see them whenever I can. I also enjoy traveling to Door County Wisconsin in the Spring and Fall each year. My Sister and Brother-in-law have a place in Ellison Bay, so I get to spend

my Door County time with them. We enjoy hiking in the parks, and on the beaches of Green Bay, and Lake Michigan.

I am looking forward to the reunion this year. I enjoyed the 45th, and look forward to seeing you again. Take Care Everyone.

Sincerely,
Ron Anderson