

# *Philip Shelton*

*1st Sgt, US Marines, 1972 - 1995*

**CONTRIBUTED BY: DWAYNE SHELTON, SON**

## **Interview with Veteran**

Philip Shelton was born in Salisbury, Maryland and raised in Princess Anne, Maryland. He attended Washington High School in Princess Anne, Maryland, and Tallahassee Community College, in Tallahassee, Florida. Growing up, he enjoyed fishing, golfing, hunting, gardening, and spending time with family.

### **When did you Decide to Join the Military? Why did you decide to join? Why did you choose the branch you did?**

Enlisted serviced from October 16 1972 at age 18, lived in small town and wanted more (Dad was Army, Uncle was Army (Vietnam), my cousin, best friend decided to join the Army, a Sergeant at the recruit station (Sgt Carter lol, true, talked me into joining the Marine Corps, My cousin and best never joined, but I decided it was a good chose for me.

### **What type of training and/or schooling did you have?**

Basic Training (Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, South Carolina), Cold weather training in Alaska (temperature, setup, gear), Joint Base Lewis-McChord. Fort Lewis

### **What are some memories you have from training or during school?**

Cold weather weather training in Bridgeport, California (bivouac 7 feet of snow for 30 days) and Alaska for 30 days (28 degrees below 0 and that was the day).

Hot weather training in 29 Palms, California (120 degrees in the shade at times)

Several advanced tank training schools at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

### **Did any instructor or fellow servicemen and women stand out or make a lasting impression?**

Lt. Colonial Kerr (commanding officer 2nd Tank Bn, Camp Lejeune, NC).

### **Did you receive any promotions or special recognition?**

Meritorious promotion to Sergeant, Good Conduct Metal, Pistol Sharpshooter, Rifle Expert, Navy Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, Meritorious Mast, Southwest Asia Service Metal.



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**Where have you been stationed throughout your career?**

Camp Lejeune (Jacksonville, North Carolina), Okinawa, Japan; Fort Knox, Kentucky, Camp Pendleton California and Naval Station Bremerton, Washington.

**What was your role(s) during your service?**

Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) 1811 Tank Crewman

**What are your recollections of the active service experience? How did this experience change you?**

It gave me an opportunity to grow, travel, appreciate life through meeting people throughout the world.

**What kind of friendships and/or relationships did you build while on active duty? Any funny meaningful or interesting stories about you and/or your friends(s) you'd like to share?**

Horace Duffy for Texas met at Camp Lejeune, NC, like a brother I never had, we had great times together.

Robert Hillard, we were stationed together at several bases, we played a lot of racquet ball to stay in shape.

**How did you stay in touch with friends and family back home?**

Phone, Letters (US Post office), very limited phone calls.

**Did you bring anything special from home with you? Did you have a "lucky" item you always had on you?**

Yes, one special item, German Shrunk, a special wall unit. No lucky items, always had God with me.

**Do you remember the day your service ended? Where were you when you found out?**

Retired February 14th 1995 from Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune as a First Sergeant serving 22 years or honorable service.

**What did you do after service ended? Did you go home to your family/friends? Did you utilize the G.I. Bill and go to college? How was the readjustment to civilian life?**

Moved family back to Tallahassee and went to work for Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) in March of 1995. Retired from the State of Florida DMV after 20 years of service.

Readjustment was difficult after being with an organized Marine Corps for 22 years, civilians are not.

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**Did you continue any of the friendships you made during your service after you left? Do you keep in touch with them/their family?**

Ronald Munson, Robert Hillard, William Hill, Ricky Lay

Anthony Milton – (“I saw the positive impact of his military service, able to take care of family, travel the world”)

**Did you join any veteran organizations like the American Legion?**

No, just my family is all the organization I needed.

**Anything you would like to share that wasn't addressed previously? Is there a piece of advice you would like to share with the younger generations as it relates to military service?**

Be your own individual person, you can always listen to advice from others, but you have to make the best decision for you and after you make that decision, how ever it turns out you, just remember that you made the decision. My grandfather told me to always be own man and work hard and if you promise someone to do something you must keep that promise or do not make it a habit of making promises.

**What would you like people to remember about your story?**

That I did it my, through love of God and family.

## **Special Memories & Notes:**

Met and married my wife February 6,1982, first child born 05/83 (a son);

Okinawa, Japan 01/84-01/85; Missed my wife and first born for a year (son's first words, crawling walking, etc)

Fort Knox, Kentucky 02/85-06/89 (Master Gunner Instructor), this was my best tour of duty because I spent a lot of time with family without having to deploy (second and third son born 7/86 and 1/88). Met my fishing and hunting friend (Jesse Wade, Army Retired)

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