



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION



Veteran: John Zambrano



Branch: US Navy, Quartermaster Chief

Achievement: First enlisted man to win the Gold Leaf Award for recruiting in the 13th District Naval Recruiting Command

Dates of Service: 1959-1965 (in Vietnam)

Campaigns/Theatre: Vietnam Waters aboard USS Epping Forest, USS Advance, USS Uhlmann, USS Samuel D. Moore, and the USS Woodpecker

Personal Story: While I was serving on the USS Uhlmann, we provided gun support for enemy gun spotters who radioed coordinates so the Uhlmann could lay down supporting fire. We were steaming parallel to the coast when the ECM gear lit indicating we were spotted from shore. We heard a port side splash and knew we were under fire. The conning officer gave orders for full port rudder so our bow would be out to sea and the stern to coast. The next volley made a starboard side splash, so we moved to port. The next volley just missed. We steamed away from fire without casualty or damage. I was the helmsman taking the conning officer's orders and if I'd hesitated for even a second, I wouldn't be here today to relate this story.

Documented by: Nan Darbous

American Legion Post 234 Vietnam War Commemoration Committee

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