



AGC L. R. (Mike) Rhine
United States Navy Retired

Chief Rhine is thought to be one of two remaining WWII ERA Prisoner of War Veterans from the Navy Weather Service Community. He was born on January 26, 1922 in Lodgepole, Nebraska. Shortly after completing high school, Mike joined the Navy in April 1940 and retired in May 1962 after serving 22 years and one month on active duty. During this period, the United States Military saw action in WWII, The Berlin Crisis, the Korean Conflict, and Southeast Asia (Vietnam). His awards and commendations included the Bronze Star Medal with the letter V for valor for service during WWII. Active duty stations included that of Chief Petty Officer in Charge of the Weather Office at China Lake, California.

He attended boot camp at San Diego, California and after graduation, he and many shipmates loaded aboard a Tender for Hawaii. During August 1940, Mike was transferred to the USS New Orleans (CA-32) for duty and in December 1940 he was reassigned to the Philippines and became an Aerographers Mate striker. Being caught by catch 22, he could not attend Aerographers Mate Class A School or make third class because of not attending the required school.

After the Japanese invaded the Philippine Islands and were approaching Manila, he was ordered from the Cavite Naval Base to Corregidor Island and was assigned to the Naval Communications Station as a security guard on the main gate. Upon the surrender of the island, the Japanese allowed them two days to make ready for transfer to Japan as a POW. During those two days, he was assigned to destroy as many of their weapons as possible. After arriving in Japan, he was assigned to a work detail and spent the remainder of War II in a POW Camp.

Upon his release from the POW Camp, he was transported on a troop ship back to the United States for rehab at the Naval Hospital - Oakland, California. With a large number of people returning home from the war, he was then ordered to New Orleans, Louisiana to complete his rehab. A short time later he was assigned to the Navy Air Station, Hutchinson, Kansas. The base was being closed so he spent his time, as a Chief Petty Officer, working as Assistant Manager for the Navy Exchange and Manager of the Enlisted Club. Soon a set of orders arrived and he was transferred to Lakehurst, New Jersey to attend Forecasters School. Mike attended forecasters school as a member of Class 4604 (B-4). The picture on his class on the NWSA website was dated February 02, 1947.

After retiring from the Navy, Mike remained in the Washington, DC area and worked another 18 years for the National Weather Service as an Aviation Forecaster providing weather data to pilots over the Pilot to Forecaster Radio and later in a Management Position.

Mike married Ms. Georgiana Brown while station in San Francisco, California on August 12, 1947. They have a daughter currently living in New York. Georgiana passed away on January 11, 1990 and on August 06, 1996 he married Ms. Catherine Norvel. They are currently living in Titusville, Florida.