

**HONORING OUR NAVY VETERANS: from Diane DeRiso - USS Skywatcher**



Pat DeRiso (Skywatcher) passed away March 9, 2018. He was buried in a Columbarium at the Dallas-Fort Worth Military Cemetery with full military honors, as per his wishes. Two sailors folded and presented the Flag to me and another sailor played Taps. It was a beautiful service.

Because of his strong feelings regarding the Navy, I wanted to do something for him that he would have been proud of. I had his Navy uniforms all dry cleaned in bags for many years. They were in perfect shape, two Blues and a White. I called the Navy Recruiting District Dallas Center and got a hold of the Master Chief Lance Kitchner. He said that they would love to have the uniforms and put me in contact with the Public Affairs Officer MC3 Nolan Pennington. I sent along a picture of his graduation from Radar School and copies of some paper work in case they wanted to use them.

On November 19, 2018 I was invited to see the presentation and what they did for Pat. All the men at the recruiting center were in formation while the Cmdr. Brock Miller gave a brief bio of Pat's time in the Navy. I spoke and told some of the stories Pat had told me. They got a big kick out of the story that he missed his ship after an R & R and had to be high-lined from another ship back to the Skywatcher. I told them how he was in a singing group on ship that entertained all aboard, one of the singers ending up with Dion and the Belmonts. But these guys

being so young did not know who Dion and the Belmonts were....all of you should.

I can't say enough about how overwhelmed I was with what they did. It moved me to tears. They said how important it is to remember our Vets. I would like to whole heartedly thank Cmdr. Brock Miller, Master Chief Lance Kitchner and especially Public Affairs Officer MC3 Nolan Pennington, who put in so much time and effort. He put his heart into this display.

**from Frank Pulaski, USS Searcher**

Mel here is a picture for a YAGRGRAM. The USS Searcher could boast of the only naval vessel that had a swimming pool and here is the proof.

