



Veterans Day Spotlight

John G. United States Coast Guard

John G. was born at St. Margaret's Hospital in Dorchester, and adopted into a wonderful and loving family. John entered the United States Coast Guard directly after graduating from high school. Like all new Coast Guard enlisted personnel, John went to boot camp at Cape May, New Jersey where he was a part of the first class to admit women. Following boot camp, John assumed his first posting aboard the United States Coast Guard Cutter *Hamilton*. At that time, the 378 foot *USCGC Hamilton* was the largest vessel class in the Coast Guard fleet. John recalls that *USCGC Hamilton* was fast for a large ship, capable of traveling up to 35 knots. John achieved the rank of MK3, Machinists Mate Petty Officer 3rd Class. John did well with his training at Coast Guard Engineering School, and word quickly spread that he could operate just about any device on the ship. John recalls that the EO, Equipment Operator, was often happy to hand jobs off to him.

John notes that he served during peacetime from 1978-1982, and that the United States was not at odds with any country except the Soviet Union. He recalls that when he was aboard his second ship, the *USCGC Rush*, which was stationed in San Francisco, they seemed to encounter a Soviet ship anytime they were afloat. Although John enjoyed his time at sea, he was somewhat disappointed that serving as a machinist mate did not give him much opportunity to be involved in search and rescue, which is what he had hoped to do when he first joined the Coast Guard. At the end of his four years, John opted to return to civilian life.

After a few years, John married and had a beautiful daughter, Rachel. John's face lights up when he describes Rachel, "*People think I'm joking, but it's true. She had a smile on her face from the moment she was born.*" Today, Rachel is looking forward to welcoming her first child in March, and John is thrilled about becoming a grandfather.

John first heard about The Boston Home from his sister, Susan, who was a nurse. He moved here in 2009. Today his room is decorated with photographs of the Coast Guard cutters *Hamilton* and *Eagle* that he had sent home to Susan when he was in the Coast Guard. He proudly displays them alongside photos of his beautiful family.