



Veterans Group

For more information, go to nalc.org/veterans.

Veteran profile: Beverly Melching

Beverly Melching is a longtime letter carrier and a Navy veteran. She has delivered mail in Jacksonville, NC, for nearly 27 years and is a member of Branch 3984. Before joining the Postal Service, Melching served in the Navy from 1989 to 1993, enlisting right after high school out of a desire to serve her country and see the world. During her naval service, Melching worked in both the deck and supply departments aboard a submarine tender, a type of depot ship that supplies and supports submarines. Her duties ranged from ship maintenance and painting to running the ship's store, where she sold everyday essentials and other items to fellow service members.

She especially enjoyed working in supply because it allowed her to meet people from every department on the ship and build lasting relationships.

"I'm still connected with quite a bit of the people today—a lot of my shipmates, we still meet up," she said. Melching tries to see them at least once a year, if not more.

Her time in the Navy included travel to ports in the United States and the Bahamas, as well as to the Persian Gulf during Operation Desert Storm and Jebel Ali, the UAE and the Persian Gulf after Operation Desert Storm. Despite being in the area at the time of the operation, she remained on the ship the entire time she was there to fulfill her duties on board as part of the deck department.

"You can see nothing but water for miles and miles, and then the sun's setting and rising when you're out there in the ocean," she said. "It's beautiful being out at sea."

Her time at sea was very memorable for her. So much so that she takes a yearly cruise and has been back to the Bahamas several times



Melching (l) served in the Navy for nearly four years. One of her favorite roles was working in the ship's store, selling everyday products to fellow service members.

since her service.

She shared a funny memory from her time in the Navy. "I can never forget the first walk when I was on board a ship," she said. "You earn your sea legs, and you're walking all crooked. It was not a steady walk."

She says of her time in the military, "I feel honored and privileged overall to be able to have that experience. I would do it all over again if I had the opportunity."

After three years and 11 months, Melching left the military for personal reasons. She returned briefly to Pennsylvania before relocating to North Carolina, where she eventually became a letter carrier.

She joined the union shortly after starting with the Postal Service because, she says, she valued the job protections and benefits it provided. Over the years, she has remained active in union leadership, serving as a branch trustee and, for the past eight years, as branch secretary.



Join the NALC Veterans Group

The NALC Veterans Group is designed to provide NALC members—both active and retired letter carriers—who are also military veterans the ability to connect with fellow NALC veterans and stay informed on issues of importance to letter carrier veterans. It is free to join.

Members receive a pin as a symbol of gratitude for their military service and membership in NALC.

If you are interested in joining the group, complete the sign-up card at nalc.org/veterans.