

## **Chief Equipment Operator Robert Joseph Welch United States Navy, Retired**

Bobby "Chief" Welch entered the Naval Service in October 1993 at Recruit Training Command, Orlando, Florida. He attended Equipment Operator "A" School in Port Hueneme, California graduating in March 1994.

His subsequent duty assignments include Naval Mobile Construction Battalion ONE THREE THREE, Gulfport, Mississippi from March 1994 to March 1998 and Public Works Detachment, Rota, Spain from March 1998 to May 2000. He separated from active duty in May 2000 and that following November joined the Naval Reserve assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion TWO FIVE Detachment 0825 at Naval Operational Support Center Chicago, Great Lakes, Illinois. He was mobilized in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2006 and served as the Detachment Transportation Supervisor and ALFA Company Leading Petty Officer at Camp Al Taqaddum, Iraq. He served as the Officer in Charge of Detachment 0825 from 2009 to 2011. He retired as a Chief Petty Officer after 20 years of honorable service in February 2013.

He is a qualified Seabee Combat Warfare Specialist and his personal/unit awards include the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (2 awards), the Navy Unit Commendation (3 awards), the Meritorious Unit Commendation, the Navy "E" Ribbon (5 Awards), the Army Superior Unit Award, the Navy Good Conduct Medal (2 awards), the Naval Reserve Meritorious Service Medal (4 awards), the National Defense Service Medal (2 awards), the Iraq Campaign Medal with bronze campaign star and Fleet Marine Force Combat Operation Insignia, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon (3 awards), the Navy and Marine Corps Overseas Service Ribbon (2 awards) the Armed Forces Reserve Medal with Bronze Hourglass and Mobilization devices, the Navy Expert Rifleman Medal, and the Navy Expert Pistol Shot Medal.

He is a Gold Legacy Life Member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 450 in Alsip, IL and is currently serving as the State Junior Vice Commander and as the Quartermaster for District 16. He has held numerous positions at the Post, District, and State level and has earned All American Commander at the Post and District level as well. His membership in Fraternal and Patriotic Orders and Societies include:

- Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, P.H. Sheridan Camp 2, Aurora Illinois
- Army & Navy Union of the United States, Garrison 146, South Bend Indiana
- Military Order of Foreign Wars, Ohio Commandery
- Military Order of the World Wars, Post 82, Chicago Illinois
- American Legion, Post 521, Steger Illinois
- 40 and 8, Voiture 796, Will Co., Illinois
- Military Order of the Cootie, Pup Tent 42, Oak Lawn Illinois
- Disabled American Veterans, Chapter 17, Hammond Indiana
- AMVETS, Post 43, Burnham Illinois
- Seabee Veterans of America, Island X-19, Alsip Illinois
- Navy Club of the United States
- Fleet Reserve Association
- Scottish American Military Society

He has a degree in Construction Management and is currently employed as an Engineering Equipment Operator with the US Army Corps of Engineers, Chicago, IL. He resides in Richton Park, IL.