

DENNIS BEAR
E-5 Petty Officer
Second Class
United States Navy

Dennis Bear was born and raised in Madison, Wisconsin. At the age of 18, after graduating from East High School, he enlisted in the Navy. Having previously learned about the Navy Unit Band from an older student, Dennis worked with the Navy recruiter to arrange an audtion. He passed the audition and was accepted to play the saxophone. He spent the next 6 months studying music at the Naval School of Music in Washington, D.C. After a brief leave to visit family at home, he left for Japan.

For the next three and a half years, Dennis performed for children and families while traveling around Japan with the 7th Fleet Navy Unit Band - including the Hong Kong Embassy and the Philippines. He marched in festivals and enjoyed meeting Japanese families and visiting their homes. It was during this time, while patronizing a local music store, that he met wife, Sachiko. She worked at the music store so he shopped there often, just so he could see her. They eventually married and after 4 years and 5 months of service Dennis left the Navy and they moved to the United States.

Dennis and Sachiko were married for 54 years and have 2 children, and 4 grandchildren. After the Navy, Dennis worked at Oscar Mayer for 41 years. He still belongs to the Navy Band Association and is active at reunions and visiting the people he served with. He continues to play the saxophone and enjoys performing with FPC's Joyful Noise.

