

## RECRUIT GRADUATION - IMAGINE THIS???



Seaman William E. Carr, USN and Allen J. Lynch,  
Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient

You've spent the last 10 weeks at Naval Station Great Lakes Recruit Basic Training and now with your family looking on, you graduate. Now you are finally a Sailor.

Of course, relieved that your demanding training schedule takes a break before your next duty assignment, you are able to spend the afternoon and evening with family and friends. William E. Carr age 21 from Statesboro, Ga. and his family are very proud of his achievements.

The family is staying at the Hampton Inn in Gurnee, Illinois and after a nice relaxing dinner you enter the hotel to see a bunch of older and mostly gray-haired men standing around the lobby. As you are still in uniform, a few of the men congratulate you on your graduation and thank you for your service to your country.

Next thing you know you and your Dad are invited into their Hospitality room and you are introduced to Mr. Allen J. Lynch, Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient.

Al Lynch is a member of a local branch of an organization of the Forty and Eight. The meeting at the Hampton Inn is an annual state meeting of the Executive Body of the organization hosted by the Gurnee members.

You learn that Lynch was awarded the Medal of Honor for valor during combat actions in the Viet Nam war. He congratulates you on your service and graduation and tells you about

becoming a loyal and true American Patriot. His talk is very inspiring. You realize that this meeting is definitely a one chance in a lifetime. What a coincidence? Later you learn that there are only 85 surviving Medalists and that you have just met one of those heroes.

The Society of the Forty and Eight is a worldwide organization of veteran's that have served with distinction to their communities and other veteran organizations. The Society was begun in 1920 and takes it's name from the small narrow gauge railroad cars utilized during World War I transporting troops to and from the battle front. The box cars were stenciled "40/8", meaning a capacity of either 40 men or 8 horses. Today 40 & 8 membership is by invitation only and is considered the "Honor Society" of Veteran Organizations.

William E. Carr is now attending "A" school at Fort Sam Houston, TX and will graduate the Corpsman School in February. We are sure that this new Sailor will always remember this surprising meeting and might someday become a 40 & 8'er.

Submitted by:

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