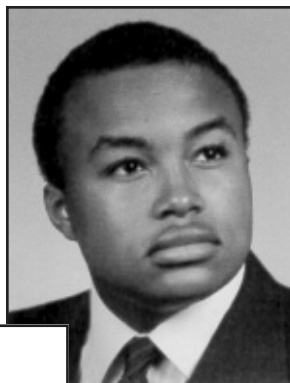
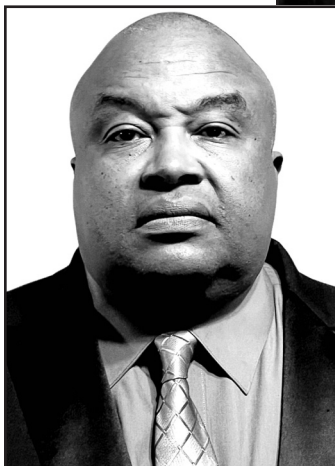


George Eugene Harper Jr.

Retired Naval Petty Officer First Class George Eugene Harper Jr. is affectionately known as “Big George” by his peers and family. Upon graduation, he immediately enlisted in the U.S. Navy and found his purpose in serving and defending democracy both domestically and abroad. He earned dozens of prestigious accolades, including three Navy Achievement Medals, four Sea Deployment Ribbons, two National Defense Service Medals, a Kuwait Liberation Medal, a Southwest Asia Service Medal, a War on Terrorism Medal, five Navy Good Conduct Medals and the Humanitarian Service Medal.



**George
Eugene
Harper Jr.**
Class of 1987

Harper served around the world in a career that spanned 20 years, participating in operations and historic events that included the fall of the Berlin Wall, the war in Afghanistan, Operation Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Harper consistently answered the call of duty, serving in multiple roles in whatever way was needed. This included working as a boatswain's mate; master trainer, rigged bull boat instructor; surface warfare specialist; air warfare specialist; assault boat crewman; and law enforcement specialist.

Harper's deep sense of service to others and a lifelong trait of humility was instilled in him at University City High School, and was a driving force in his naval career. Sailors who served alongside him owe their success and resilience in the military to his mentorship and leadership.

After his honorable retirement in 2008, Harper returned to academia and earned a bachelor's degree in business from Wayland Baptist University and taught in the San Antonio Independent School District. He continues to actively participate in the Veterans of Foreign Wars.