



## Honoring the Legacy Celebrating the 250th Birthday of the U.S. Navy



### **Josie A.** NEXCOM PAO

My connection to the Navy runs deep, a line moored to generations of sea captains and privateers. My grandfather, a sailor from a tiny island off the coast of Maine, answered the call of duty at the dawn of WWII. John Dana Coombs was a young boatswain's mate aboard USS LCI 554 when he landed at Omaha Beach on his 19th birthday, June 6, 1944. D-Day. His service didn't end there. After the war, he transitioned to the Army Air Corps, running crash boats on the Potomac, and eventually retired from the USAF after 23 years of combined service. Like him, my life has intertwined with the military. I've worked as a contractor for the Army and served ten years in the Air Force, and now, I'm honored to be a Navy Exchange Service Command (NEXCOM) associate. It feels like a full circle, a way to celebrate my grandfather's legacy by supporting today's sailors. Every day, I'm reminded of the sacrifices made, and I'm proud to continue to play a part in serving those who serve.

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