

26 December 2019

100 Great Coast Guard Chiefs in 100 Years

Greetings,

Hello. The opportunity to nominate a Chief, that one Chief who made a significant difference in the career and experiences of others, is such a wonderful way to continue to remember the hard work of retirees. Thank you for this chance to submit my story about the most memorable, down to bat for the crew, fearless, highly skilled in the trade, retired Intelligence Specialist Chief (ISC) Orestes Cancel. ISC Cancel served over 24 years in the military beginning his career in the Army and retiring as a Coastguardsman.

I met ISC Cancel almost a decade ago when I started my first job after A-School. He was hand selected by a government agency to be responsible for all Coasties, private contractors, civilians, Army, Air Force, Marine and Navy personnel serving in a highly demanding mission. He was an expert in his rate and carried himself with great humility. His distinctive leadership style and matchless ability to motivate personnel yielded exceptional results, which was a challenging task working in a joint environment. He also had a natural way to handle personnel issues with grace and professionalism. Sure, some may say that's a Chief's job, but it's not something that comes natural to many and often the service loses members due to the lack of support. This is what makes ISC Cancel stand out. Regardless of the push back he received from leadership, he always shielded his crew from any negativity. His efforts always included benefiting the Coast Guard's future by encouraging go-getters to stay in and because of that many turned their first rated tours into long-lasting careers.

To this day, and for many more years to come, ISC Cancel remains my mentor and dear friend. I have never met another Chief like him, but that's okay because he will always be my one Great Coast Guard Chief.