



Jack (John) DeBottis' Bio

Jack (John) DeBottis enlisted in the Navy, Submarine division, right after high school, when he was young enough that his father had to sign for him. He spent seven years, first living on a submarine with less about 50 other mates, and got transferred when he got in a struggle with a bunkmate. Jack was a weightlifter, wrestled, and held the man so his feet were 10 inches off the floor. He then went on the USS Hancock for the rest of his service years.

After the service, Jack went to Stockton, CA and, having trained as an electrician, worked for Pacific Gas & Electric, and joined the Seabee Reserve. Jack started as a “grunt” and then worked as a lineman. Then Jack he out he would have to go back and be in the reserves in Michigan, when he had the PG&E job. A company supervisor who was ALSO in the reserves went to bat for Jack, and he was able to stay and work in California.

After some years, Jack moved south in CA and began to follow construction for 20 years, worked in New York, and worked around Detroit. Our Classmate, Ed Foster, was Jack's foreman on one job in Michigan. Then Jack went back to CA, and with his wife and family, worked for a rancher while waiting for an electrician's job to open up. The rancher paid Jack's gas, and put Angus beef on his family's table every day!

Next, Jack worked for the power company in the CA oil fields south of Salinas, for two years. Then he heard that Arizona Power Service in Arizona was looking for linemen, and so he moved his family to Avondale near Phoenix and worked for 20 years for APS. Jack retired in 2004, and had begun having leg problems. His legs give him trouble still today.

In Arizona, he met Peggy—who was from Kentucky—and they were married, and will have their 20th Wedding Anniversary on March 11, 2009. Peggy is bedridden with failing health, and her doctor has given her three months to a year to live. But Peggy told the doctor that Jack had promised her a 20th Anniversary party—so she is determined to live at least till then.

Jack DeBottis has also had a prison ministry for about ten years, in the organization that Chuck Colson began. And Jack has some inspiring tales to tell about his talks with prisoners, whom he always tells, “I have done the same things you have done—but I just didn't get caught!” John says that God is his foundation. “In my whole life,” Jack DeBottis says, “I wouldn't trade a thing!”