



**JAMES W. FLOYD**

**- A 75 YEAR OLD US NAVY VETERAN -  
IS TO GRADUATE THIS SPRING  
WITH A BACHELORS  
OF SCIENCE IN PHYSICS**



Recently, Mr. James W. Floyd sat down with the Department of Physics and Astronomy to shed light upon the lifelong journey that led him to this achievement. In this interview, he detailed his early interests in physics and mathematics as a child, his education, and the various influences that brought him to study physics at our institution. Mr. Floyd concluded the interview by discussing the challenges that he faced throughout his life as well as some advice for “young people”.

Mr. Floyd developed an interest in science, particularly physics and math, from an early age. He speaks highly of his mother, who emphasized the importance of education and encouraged his pursuit of knowledge, inspiring him to become a man of science. After his eighteenth birthday in 1964, Mr. Floyd joined the U.S. Navy and successfully completed radar school, which allowed him to utilize his mathematical abilities. While serving on the USS Hornet aircraft carrier, he recalled reading a biography of Albert Einstein, accelerating his desire to further explore physics. Several years after leaving the Navy, Mr. Floyd began to pursue a degree in physics but ultimately changed course and graduated with a degree in marketing. He went on to pursue multiple occupations over the years, each tying back to his interest in Physics.



Years later, Mr. Floyd would approach the Physics Department at Sam Houston State University, seeking information on behalf of his grandson, who had shown interest in the field. He recalls meeting with Dr. Joel Walker, the Department Chair of Physics, and discussing his personal affinity for Physics as well as a textbook he had read that was on display in Dr. Walker's office. Mr. Floyd credits Dr. Walker with doing "one of the best things that ever happened to [him]" by asking the question "Why don't you go back to school?". Mr. Floyd later sat in on the Physics Boot Camp course, leading him to the decision to return the following semester and pursue a degree in physics at Sam Houston. While attending the University, he maintained a 3.40 GPA while also serving as a Teaching Assistant for the department.

Mr. Floyd, at the wonderful age of 75, is set to walk the stage at the May 2021 graduation ceremony, having earned a Bachelor of Science in Physics. He plans to utilize his degree and seek employment as a teacher, so that he may enlighten others who wish to gain knowledge in the field of Physics.

To watch the full interview and hear the firsthand account of Mr. Floyd's inspirational story, please follow the link below:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0eutGdRLpD4>