

**Ernest W. Zrubeck Jr W5DQQ \*1932-1997\*** Born in 1932 at Galveston, our handicapper subject Ernest Ickey Zrubeck was confined to a wheel chair most of his life suffering from broken neck out of a traffic accident when he was age 17. Ickey was one of three kids. His father was a druggist and Zrubeck Jr eventually resided in Corpus Christi TX. We don't know who influenced our good ham operator into the radio wireless game, but licensed in the 1950s.



The remainder of the story; The constant work of K8ABP Ealon Lamphier years after Ealon has passed on still pays off. I can remember him (Ealon) still at the Findlay Ohio Hamfest those years ago painting with his art brush doing amateur radio oil paintings. He was using his mouth because he had no use of his arms and hands. Ealon published a list of handicapped hams that is still available today on the Net. (Toomey J Gazette fall and winter 1962) In that list was Ickey Zrubeck W5DQQ whose life we feature today.

Ickey had loyal friends and one of them took the time to write about his friendship August 1997 on E-Ham.Net - Tom O'Brien said;

“Ickey was the kind of ham many of us would like to be. Confined to a wheelchair all of his adult life, he was a cheerful soul. He was a friend to traveling hams, whether ashore or at sea. Some remember him as a pal who would ragchew with them on the air as they traveled across the country on business. Seafaring hams would remember his willingness to run phone patches for them from his home in Corpus Christi. I remember him as a good example of the best on-the-air manners. Sometimes he would spell out his call as Whiskey Five Duck Quack Quack. It always brought a smile to me.”– editor “I truly wish others would write about these worthy subjects.”

73 Ickey and good DX from Tom AB5XZ ex K5YFK – W8SU 2013