



**Missouri State Society
Daughters of the American Revolution**



**Patriot of the Month, May 2008
Richard E. Schneider, Jr.**

Richard E. Schneider, Jr. enlisted in the US Navy in September 1964 and was sent to the US Naval Training Center in San Diego, California, for basic training. His first duty station was at the Naval Air Station at Alameda, California, where he received promotions to Airman Apprentice (E-2), Airman (E-3), and approval as a striker for the Aviation Machinist Structures (AMS) rate.

In December 1966, he reported aboard the Aircraft Carrier USS Hancock (CVA-19), which deployed to the South China Seas in support of Vietnam Operations. During this deployment, Richard was promoted to Aviation Machinist Petty Officer Third Class (AMS3). He then transferred to Helicopter Unit Submarine Squadron Six based at the Naval Air Station at Imperial Beach, California. That squadron was deployed to the South China Seas in support of Vietnam Operations aboard the Aircraft Carrier USS Kearsarge (CVS-33). This unit was responsible for picking up downed pilots who were forced to crash at sea because of extensive damage to their aircraft during combat operations in Vietnam.

Richard was promoted to Aviation Machinist Petty Officer Second Class (AMS2) in April 1968. In March 1969, he reported to Patrol Squadron Twenty-Three at the Naval Air Station at Brunswick, Maine. The squadron deployed to Naval Air Facility at Sigonella, Sicily, in support of fleet operations in May. During this deployment, Richard flew as a Maintenance Test Air crewman in the P2-V7 Neptune Aircraft. In May 1970, he reported to the Navy Air Station at Whiting Field, Florida, and was assigned to Aircraft Maintenance Department Calendar

Maintenance Crew Branch, then to Airframes Maintenance Branch, and finally to Quality Assurance Branch. During this time, Richard also flew as a Maintenance Test Air crewman in the T-28B and the C Trojan type aircraft. He was promoted to AMS1 in May 1974.

Richard then transferred to several different commands for a series of training schools. He next completed a course to qualify as a Fleet Replacement Flight Engineer, Ground and Flight Phase instructor, which included assignments of Supervisor of Programmed Instruction Development department for enlisted personnel. Richard's final tour of duty included flight duties as a Flight Engineer operating a P-3A type aircraft equipped with electronic equipment and performing R&D in electronic warfare. He retired at the rank of Master Chief Petty Officer.

After retiring from the Navy in 1985, Richard worked for Martin Marietta Aerospace, which merged with Lockheed Martin Corporation, working with the Safety Department at the production site of the Space Shuttle external gas tank.

Richard married first JoAnn Rulo. He has two daughters and three grandchildren. He married second Manie Labolalo.

Though he currently resides in Slidell, Louisiana, Richard has close ties to the St. Louis area. He is the second child of Richard E. Schneider, Sr., also being honored as a Patriot of the Month. He is a member of the Sons of the American Revolution, Spirit of St. Louis Chapter, and has submitted his application for membership in the William T. Sherman Camp, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, both in St. Louis.

Carol McKay, Regent of the Webster Groves Chapter, and Richard's brother, proudly nominated Richard E. Schneider, Jr. for Patriot of the Month.