

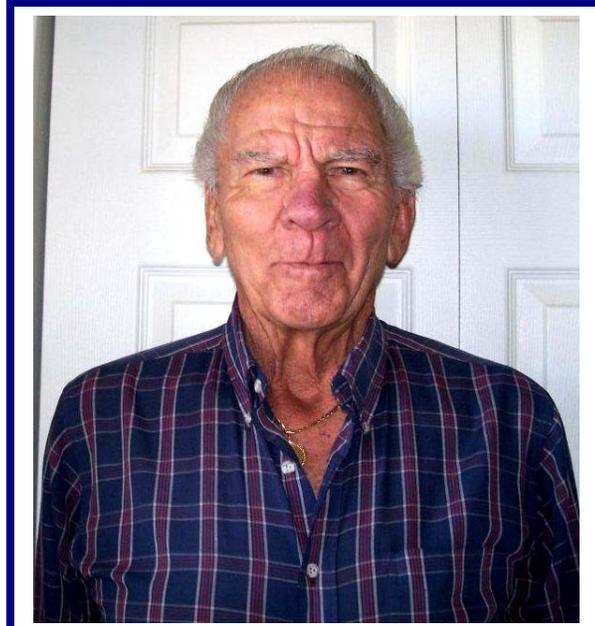
Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution
Proudly "Spotlights" our September 2011
Patriot of the Month



**George Frederick
Roling**

Sponsored by:

**Armstrong Chapter
Armstrong, Missouri**



George Frederick Roling graduated from Salisbury High School in 1944 and enlisted in the Navy the day after graduation. He went to boot camp at Great Lakes, Illinois, and then went to San Diego, California where he was assigned to the *USS Southampton (AKA-66)*.

His ship went to Fairbanks, Alaska to pick up troops and take them to the Pacific, which included Iwo Jima and Okinawa before continuing on to Japan as a supply unit for the troops. His ship stayed in the area until the end of the war in the Pacific. Following the war, the *USS Southampton (AKA-66)* returned to San Diego where it was decommissioned.

George returned to St. Louis on a troop train and was discharged June 1946 as a Signalman First Class. He received medals, but can only remember the World War II Victory Medal in the Pacific. George shared memories of seeing numerous Kamikaze planes flying into the American ships surrounding the island at Iwo Jima.

Another memory was serving with another Salisbury boy, Ralph

Schnetzler, who also served on the *USS Southampton (AKA 66)*. George and Ralph served together in boot camp and were also discharged together.

After George returned home, he attended a real estate school in Kansas City and worked for the Kroger Company at stores in Salisbury and Brunswick. He then went to work for the Bechtel Construction Company, where he worked in construction as an apprentice for five years in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Using this trade, he worked in Saudia Arabia for three years and then returned to Baton Rouge where he worked for another year and a half.

George married Martha Ann Todd in January 1951. Along with a friend, he opened an IGA grocery store in 1956. George retired from his management position in 1980, but was still actively involved for many years. The store is still in operation today and co-managed by his son.

After Martha's passing on January 1, 1994, he married Barbara Noel in October 1994. She passed in 2007. George said he was blessed to have found and loved two lovely Christian women. George and Martha had one son, three grandchildren, and a great-grandchild.

George has spent many winters in Ft. Myers, Florida. He is a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.