



Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution
Patriot of the Month
May 2013



Harold G. Anderson

Sponsored by

Gilead Rupe Chapter DAR

Harold G. Anderson enlisted in the Navy on September 20, 1950. The Korean War had just started and he completed boot camp in California. After his Engineman School he was transferred to the East Coast to train with boat crews. His first assignment was aboard ship USS Vermillion (AKA107) sent to Thule, Greenland to furnish boats for building an Airbase there.

Harold was discharged in June of 1954 and returned to Missouri. After about a year and a half, he decided to reenlist and make the Navy his career. By this time he had married and had a daughter, not yet aware he was to be a father for a second time. A year later his wife Dorothy and daughters joined him in Newport, R. I. at his ships homeport.

As usual, Harold and his family were moved again, about six months later. His ship's home port was changed to Key West, Florida, but they liked the weather much better and the ship would operate more or less locally so there was more time at home. Some of their assignments included an operation with the space program which required they sail out into the Atlantic and wait for a missile or a nose cone. Harold served on two ships while in Key West: the USS Peterson (DE1520), and the USS Brough (DE1487), for about three years until he was ordered to the Great Lakes for instructor duty at the Engineman "A" School.

Harold was ordered back to sea after his three year tour to the USS Raleigh (LPD-1) that operated out of Norfolk. This ship had a flight deck as well as a deck that could be flooded to receive landing craft. They participated in an operation when President Johnson landed troops in the Dominican Republic. They also took on board about five hundred evacuees leaving the area. They were awarded two medals for this operation. Harold's next ship was older – the USS Grant (LST1174), then to a minesweeper, USS Bulwork (MSO-425), which was home ported in Charleston, S. C. It was a wooden ship with an engineering plant of mostly non-magnetic material. They had to be escorted across the Atlantic because the ship required refueling every third day and it took them 23 days to cross.

When Harold got back to Charleston after his six month deployment he was ordered to Washington, D. C. to serve in the Bureau of Naval Personnel as an Assistant Rating Control Officer for Enginemen. This involved trying to fit the right man into the right job. He wrote orders for men to report to ships and stations all over the world. Harold wrote his own orders to his last ship the USS Spartanburg County (LST1192).

By the time he left the Bureau he had advanced to the rank of Master Chief Petty Officer. His last ship was a new type of LST with a cruiser type bow and could do about twenty knots. His engineering crew was mostly Viet Nam returnees who had not been a part of a shipboard engineering crew so they really had to do some hands-on training.

Harold decided it was time to transfer to fleet reserve after about twenty-three years of active duty. He told his wife, Dorothy that he was going to be her birthday present when he retired on January 31, 1974, her actual birthday. Harold shares with pride what an excellent Navy wife Dorothy was, never complaining about all the moves they had to make of which sometimes she had to do by herself. Nor did she complain about all the long months that he was deployed. Dorothy passed away in January of 1993 after forty years of marriage.

Awards and medals Harold received are:

- ★ Navy Commendation Medal
- ★ Good Conduct Medal (5)
- ★ Navy Unit Commendation
- ★ National Defense Service Medal Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal

After Harold retired he worked as a Maintenance Supervisor for nine years and then as a school bus driver for nine years. He says he thinks he probably liked his job better than any civilian job he ever had because he liked his "bus kids" a lot. Harold remarried to Ida Anderson and also has two step-children. Harold loved the Navy. He is very patriotic and flies the American Flag from a twenty foot pole in his yard. He is a member of the First

Baptist Church where he is a deacon and belongs to the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Fleet Reserve Association.

The members of the Gilead Rupe Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution are pleased to honor Harold G. Anderson as MSSDAR Patriot of the Month and extend their gratitude and thanks for his service to our great country.