



**Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution
Patriot of the Month
July 2013**



Vernon E. Umphenour

Sponsored by:

Armstrong Chapter DAR

Vernon E. Umphenour was attending high school at El Monte, California, when he was drafted into the Amphibious Forces of the Navy on April 29, 1944. He received his boot camp at Farragut, Idaho and then was sent to an Amphibious Base at Solomons, Maryland, where he served on an LCS (L)(3)6. Next he was sent to Camp Bradford, an Amphibious Base at Little Creek, Virginia.

Vernon left next on a series of eventful assignments as a Fireman First Class. On board an LST 1077 Vernon went to New Jersey, Virginia, Panama Canal and then headed for Pearl Harbor. When leaving port the crew was told they were to expect a lot of casualties on this assignment. His ship left Pearl Harbor for Japan and they were almost there when the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima and as they were continuing on to Japan the second bomb was dropped on Nagasaki. When the announcement came of the atomic bomb having been dropped there was a lot of

excitement. Vernon's outfit was the first to occupy Japan landing just about twenty miles from Nagasaki. While there they made two trips to the Philippines to take supplies. Vernon returned and was honorably discharged on February 21, 1946 at the US Naval Station, San Pedro, California.

Vernon and Betty Hildreth were married May 1945 and after his discharge they farmed in the Kansas City area until 1961. He went to work for the Wabash Railroad and later worked for TWA in 1965. While working for TWA he earned his single engine license flying a Cessna 150. He retired in 1983. Vernon and Betty have two children, Debra Mobley and Roger, two grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. Vernon went on the Honor Flight to Washington, DC in June 2010. He is a member of the Cairo Baptist Church, Rising Sun Blue Lodge #13, Milton Blue Lodge #151, Cairo Blue Lodge 486, Scottish Rite, Ararat Shrine, Coon Creek Shrine, and Royal Order of Scotland.

The members of the Armstrong Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution wish to extend their gratitude and thanks to Vernon E. Umphenour for his service to our country and honor him as Patriot of the Month.