

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution



Patriot of the Month

July 2015



James Gilbert Compton

Sponsored by:

Elk Horn Prairie Chapter



James Gilbert Compton was raised in the Miller/Mt. Vernon area where he graduated from Miller High School in 1941. Following graduation he worked on the farm until he enlisted in 1943.

Jim's basic training was at Farragut, Idaho. Most of his training was on the job, serving on copy code duty. He served two and half years on the USS Steamer Bay CVE87 in the South Pacific. As a radioman 3rd class, Jim served on the bridge of the ship, on stand-by in case of an emergency in the radio shack. He has been an avid student of World War II ever since.

Jim received the following medals, ribbons, and citations: American Area Theater, Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbons and 6 Bronze Stars, Philippine Liberation Ribbon and 2 Bronze Stars, Victory Medal, Combat Action Medal, and the Philippine Presidential Citation.

After being discharged from the Navy in Great Lakes, Illinois, on April 4, 1946, and graduation from Draughon Business College, Jim worked for Carnation Company, starting as an office manager and working his way up to Customer Service Manager.

Jim married Virginia Berniece Shook on June 4, 1949. He has one daughter, Mary, and two grandchildren and three great grandchildren. He enjoys retirement, gardening, woodworking, and playing golf. In addition, he had over 7000 hours of volunteer service at the Missouri Rehabilitation Center until the facility closed last October. He also has volunteered at the local food pantry, PETS, Angel Food, and the Hope Center. He continues to be an active member of his church, the Lawrence Historical Society, and volunteers at the newly organized MRC Museum.

The Daughters of the Elk Horn Prairie Chapter DAR are proud to nominate James Gilbert Compton as Patriot of the Month and extend their gratitude for his patriotic service and commitment to our great nation.