

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution Proudly Honors

Patriot of the Month September 2016



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Howard County
Chapter



C. Ben Basye United States Army United States Navy

C. Ben Basye served over four decades in the United States Navy and Naval Reserve and almost four decades as an engineering professor. He holds the rank of Captain, United States Navy Reserve Retired.

The United States was at war, but Ben was too young to join the military. Wanting to help the war effort, Ben went to work for North American Aviation in Kansas City as a riveter. On day three of his first week training program he volunteered for training to become an inspector on the center section of the B-25s. Upon turning 17 he applied for pilot training in the Army Air Corps.

Ben entered the United States Army at Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas in late September 1944. He was assigned to the engineering program at the University of Nebraska. He then transferred to the University of Wyoming and while there, the program was discontinued. Because he had entered the program at age 17, below the draft age, he was given three choices, discharge, infantry or aerial gunner. He chose discharge because he wanted to be a military pilot. He was discharged from the Army at Laramie, Wyoming in 1945.

On his way home to Missouri from Wyoming, he stopped at the United States Navy Recruiting Office in Kansas City. There he enlisted for naval pilot training. This began his flying career.

Ben was with the United States Pacific Fleet for two years. A short time after his release from active duty, he joined the Naval Reserve. Ben worked as a jet fighter pilot aircraft maintenance man. For 37 years, he was active in the reserve and during part of that time; he attended college to get his degree in engineering.

Ben was awarded the World War II Medal and a Good Conduct Medal, among many others.

Among his many achievements he holds a B.S. Degree in Mechanical Engineering, an M.S. Degree in Theoretical and Applied Mechanics and a Ph.D. in Theoretical and Applied Mechanics. Ben is a Professor Emeritus of Engineering at a local state university. It was there he taught 18 different graduate engineering courses and at a university in Iowa. He served as faculty advisor for more than 400 graduate engineering students. After teaching a number of years he retired.

Ben and his wife, the former Joanne Brown, have four sons.

The Howard County Daughters are proud to honor and recognize Ben Basye as Patriot of the Month for his patriotism and service to our great nation.