

# Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution Proudly Honors



## Patriot of the Month September 2016



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Chapter



## Howard W. Richards United States Navy

Howard W. Richards graduated from high school in 1956 and enlisted in the United States Navy on June 6, 1956. He went to boot camp at Bainbridge, Maryland, and after boot camp was transferred to Brunswick, Georgia, then on to a mechanic school at Memphis, Tennessee. After graduating from mechanic school, he went to Naval Air Station, San Diego, California and was assigned to a squadron aboard the *USS Hancock (CV-19)*.

Howard remembers one mission of being in a detachment group of about 24 sailors and six officers who were sent overseas for about six months. They stopped in Hawaii for a few days, then on to Japan, Okinawa, and China. There were about 75 planes on the carrier and many practices of planes repeatedly landing and taking off the *USS Hancock* which was the purpose of this mission and preparing them to be combat ready.

The *USS Hancock* returned to San Francisco, then on to San Diego, California. Howard returned to his squadron, and then another detachment of a squadron left for the same training. It was an ongoing occurrence until all detachments had rotated through this part of the training. He stayed in San Diego until his enlistment was over. He was discharged in San Diego on August 9, 1959 as a Petty Officer Second Class and returned to his home.

Howard stated if you enlisted in the Navy at age 17 and before turning 18, you could get discharged a day before you turned 21. If you enlisted when you were 18, you had to serve four years. Howard served three years and two months.

Howard worked at A.B. Chance Company for 16 years. He then started employment with the Department of Agriculture, a federal position which lasted for 12 years. He then began working for the Department of Corrections for one year in maintenance, followed by working at a local college as a security guard. He retired in 2000 after 11 years employment with the college.

Howard has remained single; however, there is a special lady in his life. He has one brother and two sisters. He is a member of his local Christian Church and is a supporter of Wounded Warriors.

Armstrong Chapter Daughters proudly honor and recognize Howard W. Richards as Patriot of the Month for his patriotism and service to our great country.