

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution
Proudly Honors

Patriot of the Month



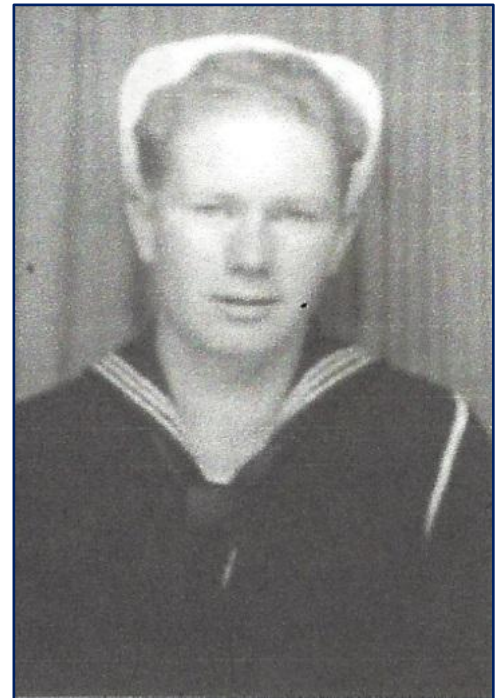
August 2017



Robert Kerr

United States Navy

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Armstrong
Chapter



Robert's mother passed when he was 4-1/2 years old and he was raised by his grandparents. He graduated from high school in 1944.

Robert was drafted into the United States Navy in July, 1945, at St. Louis, Missouri. He went to boot camp at the Naval Training Center, Great Lakes, and Illinois. Following boot camp, he was transferred to Camp Parks, California, a Marine Corps Training Base. It was on the train going to Camp Parks, he found out he was assigned as a Seabee. Following his time at Camp Parks, he was sent to Camp Shoemaker, California, where he boarded the *USS Saratoga (CV-3)*. While on his way to the Hawaiian Islands on the *USS Saratoga (CV-3)*, he found out he was no longer a Seabee.

Robert boarded the *USS Bremerton (CA-130)*, a heavy cruiser, while in the Hawaiian Islands. They cruised by Guam and docked at Shanghai, then on to Hong Kong, China and docked there. They left Hong Kong and went to Seoul, Korea, then back to Shanghai. While in Shanghai, Admiral Charles M. Cooke, Jr., Commander of the Seventh Fleet, came aboard the *USS Bremerton (CA-130)* to cruise with them to Manila where he was to attend the Philippine Independence Ceremonies.

In March 1946, while Robert was still aboard the *USS Bremerton (CA-130)* and before reaching Manila, a letter from his stepmother reached him informing him of the passing of his father in January 1946. Admiral Cooke was still on board the ship when Robert was taken by a small boat from the *USS Bremerton (CA-130)* to another ship to sail back to the United States. Robert had chosen not to re-enlist for two more years, but chose to come home to help his grandpa on the farm. When he reached California, he returned by plane to Lambert Airfield and was discharged from the Navy in August, 1946, in St. Louis with the rank of Seaman 1st Class. He received the Victory Medal and the Asiatic-Pacific Medal.

Robert's brother was drafted into the Navy in 1941 and served during World War II and his father served in World War I.

After being discharged from the Navy, Robert returned to Missouri and his working career consisted of general farming (crops, cattle & hogs), agent and adjuster for an insurance company and a journeyman carpenter.

Robert married Carolyn, who passed away in 1971. He has one step-son, seven step-grandchildren and several step-great-grandchildren. Robert is a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion.

Armstrong Daughters are proud to recognize Robert Lee Kerr as Patriot of the Month and extend their gratitude and thanks for his service to our great nation.