

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution
Proudly Honors



Patriot of the Month
December 2017



Richard Rupp

United States Navy

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Hannibal Heritage
Chapter



Richard Rupp entered the United States Naval Reserve in November, 1969, at Hannibal, Missouri. He attended boot camp at Great Lakes Training Center, Great Lakes, Illinois and shipboard training aboard *USS Borie*, (DD 704), at Norfolk, Virginia. During the one year training at the reserve center, he was sent to San Diego for six weeks of electronics and 12 weeks of sonar training. While waiting for orders to his ship, he was assigned to the Treasure Island Police Department in San Francisco, California.

He reported aboard the *USS Chevalier*, (DD 805), in June, 1971, in San Diego. The ship departed November 1, 1971, for the Seventh Fleet at Subic Bay, Philippines. While in the South China Sea off Vietnam, the ship performed gun fire support to ground troops and aircraft carrier escort. They served in Vietnam waters from November, 1971, to March, 1972. During this time, they also traveled through the Strait of Malacca into the Indian Ocean to escort the *USS Enterprise* (CVAN-65) during the Pakistan War.

As a Sonar Tech, his duties were to monitor the ocean for submarines by manning the ship's underwater anti-submarine equipment, including fathometer, hedgehog, and torpedo systems.

After returning to San Diego, the ship was sold to the South Korean Navy and Richard was assigned to a coastal security unit in Long Beach, California.

Richard was separated from active duty in December, 1972, and reported back to the Hannibal Naval Reserve Center. During his reserve training, he spent two weeks aboard the *USS Carpenter (DD-825)* ported in San Francisco. He was discharged from the active reserve in November, 1974.

Richard received the Armed Service Award, the Vietnam Service Medal, and Letter of Accreditation, Fleet Police Department Treasure Island.

Richard says that "The greatest experience I had was the privilege to serve our country and now as a veteran."

Before entering the Navy, Richard worked for Altorfer, Inc., the sales and servicing dealer for Caterpillar as a shop and field mechanic. He returned to their employment after active duty and in 1983, he became the parts and service salesman for all of Altorfer's Missouri area. In 1993, he became their local store manager, retiring after 45 years with the company. Richard and his wife, Janice, have two daughters and three grandchildren. One of their daughters, along with her husband and children, live on the family's century farm in Hannibal.

While working for Altorfer, Richard was involved with his local Chamber of Commerce. Serving as chairman of the transportation committee, he was instrumental in getting both Highway 61 completed to a four-lane road to Iowa, and also Highway 36's final 52 miles upgraded to four-lane. He has been a member of the Early Bird Kiwanis for 23 years, member of the local Airport Commission, and a very active member of Holy Family Catholic Church.

Hannibal Heritage Daughters are very proud and honored to recognize Richard Rupp as Patriot of the Month for his patriotic and dedicated service to our great nation.