

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution Proudly Honors

Patriot of the Month

November 2020

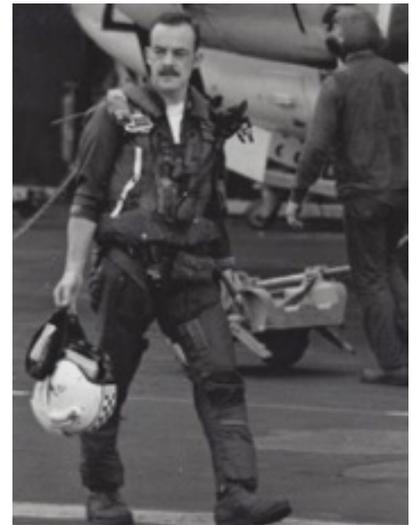


John "Jack" Zerr

United States Navy

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Saint Charles
Chapter

John "Jack" Zerr enlisted in the US Navy on August 7, 1959 in St. Charles, MO. After boot camp and six-month electronics technician school, his first assignment was on a destroyer based in Charleston, South Carolina. During the first six months he did menial jobs and took a test for a Navy college scholarship program. In early 1961 he was promoted to third class petty officer and was notified he was accepted into the scholarship program. He attended Purdue University and graduated in 1965 with a degree in Electrical Engineering. In 1963 Jack and his high school sweetheart, Karen, were married.



After graduating from PU and OCS (Officer Candidate School) Jack reported to another destroyer, this time in San Diego, California. Their first child was born there just before his ship deployed to the Tonkin Gulf, Vietnam. At that time the US Navy and Air Force planes bombed the North. Jack's destroyer served as a refueling station for the rescue helicopters if one of the bombers got hit and the pilot made it over the water before ejecting. On his destroyer, he saw the planes fly over fighting the war, while he sat below waiting for one of them to need their help. Those planes were fighting the war, and Jack didn't feel like he was, so in the middle of 1966 he decided to put in for flight training.

In March of 1968 he was in Meridian, Mississippi, for basic jet flight training. After training made two more deployments to the Tonkin Gulf aboard the aircraft carrier USS *Hancock* (CVA-19) and logged more than three hundred combat missions over Vietnam and Laos. Jack went on to other assignments: Navy Postgraduate School, Naval Test Pilot School, and six command billets.

After the service, Jack worked in aerospace for eleven years and retired in 2007. He served on the advisory board for the high school he and Karen graduated from and on the financial committee of his parish. Jack has spoken at a number of veteran related functions over the last twelve years. Jack and his wife Karen have six children and Jack gives Karen all the credit for raising them.

Saint Charles Daughters are proud to honor and recognize Rear Admiral (ret) John Zerr as Patriot of the Month for his patriotism and invaluable service to our great nation and our community.