

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution Proudly Honors

Patriot of the Month



February 2021



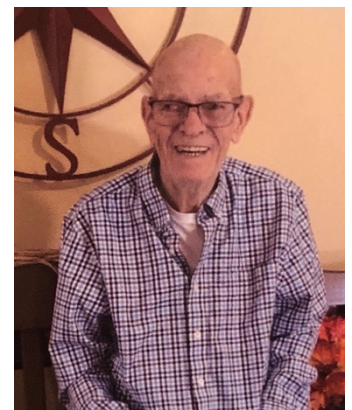
William “Billy Ray” Thrasher

United States Navy



Sponsored by:
John Sappington
Chapter

After graduating from Chowchilla High School in 1950 and laboring in the cotton fields and orchards of California's Central Valley, William “Billy Ray” Thrasher joined the navy in 1951.



He completed his basic training in San Diego, CA and was assigned to a Seabee unit aboard the USS *Shields DD596*. His rank was Gunners Mate 3rd class at discharge. He was in the Seabees mostly construction, repair, and maintenance of Marine Corp and Naval facilities and buildings. Non-combat. The USS *Shields* patrolled the eastern Pacific Ocean making calls at ports in Hawaii, Japan, Korea, the Philippines, Guam, and Hong Kong to construct and repair various Marine Corp and Naval facilities.

After being honorably discharged in 1955, William “Billy Ray” Thrasher resided in the Los Angeles/Hollywood area chasing starlets and working various jobs. He eventually landed a truck driving job at a fledgling company called United Parcel Service where he worked for thirty years.

William Thrasher met his future wife, Arline McGee, at a dance at the Disneyland Hotel in the early 1960s. William and Arline Thrasher had two children: Thomas and Barbara. Thomas is now a professor in California, and Barbara is a Sr. Staff Architect SAP Administrator.

William “Billy Ray” Thrasher was active in the Teamsters and other organized labor associations until he retired. He is currently a retired resident of Rogers, AR. and recently survived a bout of Covid 19 at the young age of 91!

John Sappington Daughters are very proud to recognize and honor William Thrasher as Patriot of the Month for his very patriotic and dedicated service to our great nation.