

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution Proudly Honors



Patriot of the Month
September 2021

Thomas Wayne Arthur

United States Coast Guard

United States Navy

Sponsored by:
Sarah Barton Murphy
Chapter



The eldest child of Thomas and Lila Arthur, Sr. Thomas Jr., has a strong desire to join the Coast Guard at age 17. His mother signed her approval in 1954. Duties included weather patrols, search and rescue missions and shark watches. Close living quarters, anticipating rough seas, the men strapped themselves in their sleeping bunks that were stacked 4 bunks high. Waves commonly were 10-15 feet high. Weaponry training was utilized when needed. Multiple duty stations were served over his 8 years of service; from Portsmouth, VA, Baltimore, MD Cuba, Haiti, Argentina, Newfoundland, Greenland, Iceland and Vietnam. Shortly after Thomas's 18th birthday his official draft notice arrived while he was in Nova Scotia, Canada.

Family obligations brought him back home to his growing family. After 3 years in civilian life working in the field of electrician, plumber and mover, he returned to military service in the US Navy. Duties were similar to the Coast Guard. Because the motto of the Navy is "we repair our own ships" the next 3 years were filled with a variety of ship repairs in Mayport, FL. Asian tours took him to Hawaii, Midway Islands, the Philippines, Guam, Japan, Vietnam, Sydney, Australia and sailing the roughest waters around the Horn of Africa. Mediterranean tours took him to Barcelona, Naples, Malta, Sardinia Island, England & Africa.

The best advice given to him given to him after his Coast Guard service: Return to military duty!!

The best advice given to him after joining the Navy: Don't volunteer for duty!!

The Vietnam Combat Action Award was received on the first day in the Gulf of Tonkin. The North Vietnamese artillery made a direct hit on the ship Thomas was assigned to. No sailors were killed.

After retirement, he served as a Craven County Sheriffs deputy. At age 84 Thomas reveres the current service members. He is a member of the VFW, the Am Vets and the Shriners. His family includes his wife Nancy of 63 years, 3 sons, 5 granddaughters and 2 great-grandsons.

Sarah Barton Murphy Daughters are honored and are proud to honor and recognize Thomas Wayne Arthur as Patriot of the Month for his patriotism and invaluable service to our great nation.