

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution

Proudly Honors

Patriot of the Month

October 2021



Mark Randolph Henry

United States Navy



Sponsored by:
Sarah Barton Murphy
Chapter

Mark Randolph Henry enlisted in the Navy August 25, 1966. He was honorably discharged August 25, 1976. His duty stations were:

US Naval Recruit Training Command – Great Lakes, IL; US Naval Communications Training Center – Pensacola, FL; US Naval Electronics Training Center – Great Lakes, IL; US Naval Cryptologic Training Center – Mare Island, Vallejo, CA; US Naval Combat Training Command – CA; US Naval Security Group Tenant Command – Kamiseya, Japan (Misawa, Japan); US Naval Submarine Base (COMSUBLANT 2) – New London, CT.

In the service his rate was Communications Technician, M Branch. His duties consisted of performing special communications under the cognizance of the Chief of Naval Operations. Final rank was CMT1(SS). The (SS) implies the award of full qualifications for the Sturgeon Class Submarines.

Petty Officer First Class Henry received the Good Conduct Medal, 2 awards for Meritorious Unit Commendations, 3 awards for Navy Unit Commendations, National Defense Ribbon.

Mark has many sailor stories; the following are some of them:

“In Japan, I watched the moon landing live from a 120-foot dish from the tracking station.”

When Mark was 400 miles from the nearest land, he stood look out watch from the submarine sail and marveled at the view of the sky.

“We played basketball and baseball with Japanese grade school students who also enjoyed practicing their English while we learned some of their language. The students usually beat the socks off us easy older guys!”

“We were fishing in Japan with worms and not having any luck when three young girls came by giggling. They disappeared and then brought back some salmon eggs which the fish loved! We were then catching the fish left and right (which we released). The Japanese girls enjoyed practicing their English.”

“After the '68 Earthquake on Misawa, Japan, we had the chance to help the local citizens by getting food delivered to them by us sailors gathering up the supplies. We also rescued two Japanese fishermen whose boat had capsized during the quake. The fishermen in turn invited us to dinner and a tea dance.”

In Mystic, CT, while serving at the nearby Naval Submarine Base, he was also a volunteer fireman.

The best advice Mark said he received was from his Sikeston, Missouri High School electronics teacher, Billy M. Dickerson a former 20-year Navy Chief. Chief Dickerson encourage him to go into the Navy and told him to do as he was told to do in boot camp and to go with the flow. Mark said he also told him the Navy gives three meals a day, a warm place to sleep, and a good education. With a smile, Mark commented that on the submarine, he ate four meals a day and homemade bread!

After the Navy, Mark attended William Raney Harper College, The University of Illinois and graduated in Engineering and Computer Science in 1985 from Maryville University, Missouri. Mark used his GI Bill to take flying lessons and became a private pilot. The company, Motorola, paid for his university education.

After becoming a scuba diver (initial training in submarine school), Mr. Henry and the West End scuba club cleaned up several Missouri streams and rivers.

In Barrington, Illinois from 78-96 Mr. Henry was involved in the Country Players Community Theatre. He acted in 21 plays and produced / acted in six.

In 1979-93 Mark guided inner city Chicago adolescents on 10-day canoe trips in Canada (sponsored by the Catholic Diocese).

Mark has been a member of the Ham Radio Clubs in St. Charles, Poplar Bluff, and presently Jackson, Missouri.

Marked worked as an engineer for Motorola and Center Point Energy.

Franklin Forrest Henry, Mark's dad, was a veteran of the Coast Guard. His uncles, Richard Randolph and Lynn Randolph were both Navy veterans. Mark came from a hunting, fishing and camping family. His mom, Shirley Randolph Henry, was not only a great mother to he and his sister, Ann Henry Sebaugh, but was also a school secretary and befriended many students.

Recently Mark has been contacted for a reunion by his US Naval Security Base friends.

Sarah Barton Murphy Daughters are proud to honor and recognize Mark Randolph Henry as Patriot of the Month for his very patriotic and dedicated service to our great nation.