

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution

Proudly Honors

Patriot of the Month

December 2021

David Hutchison

United States Navy



Sponsored by:
Jane Randolph Jefferson
Chapter

David Hutchison enlisted as a Seaman in the United States Navy after graduating from high school in 1959. He attended boot camp at Great Lakes Naval Training Center on the western shore of Lake Michigan near Chicago. He was assigned to the USS *Lake Champlain* out of Quonset Point near Newport, Rhode Island. The ship was converted to an antisubmarine carrier and the helicopters undertook numerous rescue missions. One of David's most memorable experiences on this ship was being one of the two crewman dropped into the Atlantic to recover Freedom 7, the first manned spacecraft, and Alan Shepard.



He took college classes in his spare time on ship and eventually became a helicopter pilot and 3rd Class Petty Officer. He remembers early on that one of the officers told him to always have his Blue Books open during mess. When officers needed men to do extra duty, they never chose the men who were studying.

David remembers very vividly the morning in October of 1962 while in port, when the whistle blew telling all available men to go to General Quarters, saying "This is not a drill!" The unarmed USS *Kitty Hawk* had two Russian submarines following her off the coast of Florida. The USS *Lake Champlain* came to her rescue and sank one of the Russian submarines. David received the Presidential Commendation and the Cuban Missile Crisis Award.

In November the USS *Lake Champlain* sailed back to Quonset Point for operations and overhaul. The next September she was back at Guantanamo Bay when Hurricane "Jane" hit Haiti. Her helicopters located homeless victims and flew them food and medical supplies.

David stayed in the Navy for four years with all his time on the USS *Lake Champlain*. He left the Navy in 1964 in Quonset Point, Rhode Island. Then David spent four years in the Naval Reserves. He worked for 27 years at the Chrysler Corporation in Fenton working his way from on the line to product manager. After retiring from Chrysler, he joined the Maries County Sheriff's office and was Chief Deputy until retiring in 2017. He still works there part-time.

David and his wife, Monita, have two children, Heather (Mike) Keith and Duayne Hutchison and grandson, Nathan Keith.

Jane Randolph Jefferson Daughters are very proud to honor and recognize David Hutchison as Patriot of the Month for his patriotism and dedicated service to our nation as a veteran of the Navy and law enforcement.