

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution
Proudly "Spotlights" our October 2011
Patriot of the Month



Robert Leavene

Sponsored by:

Armstrong Chapter
Armstrong, Missouri



Robert Leavene attended Moberly High School and enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1942. He was sent to boot camp in Farragut, Idaho, then on to diesel school in Ames, Iowa. Robert was transferred to San Diego, California, Hawaii and to the Marianas Islands. He was in the initial invasion of Tinian Island. From there he went to Guam. Robert recalls while being stationed on Tinian Island four Japanese made it into their lines and got into a light bomber which was setting on the airstrip waiting for morning to go on the next mission. The Japanese got the plane started, but failed to pull the blocks from in front of the wheels and they were unable to take off. These enemy soldiers set off hand grenades, demolishing the plane and killing themselves.

Robert returned to Norfolk, Virginia and was granted a short leave as he had been away from home

for two years. He returned to Norfolk, Virginia and soon departed for St. Louis, Missouri where he was discharged in January 1946, with the rank of Motor Machinist Mate 2nd Class.

Robert's award, medals, and citations include:

- Asiatic Pacific Medal w/1 star
- American Theatre Award
- Victory Medal

Robert married Norma Maxey on September 5, 1942. They have five children, twenty-three grandchildren and thirty-six great grandchildren. He is a member of the Veterans of the Foreign Wars, American Legion, NARVE, and the First Christian Church.