

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



Thomas S. Millot
Sr.

Sponsored by:

Prairie Chapter
Lee's Summit,
Missouri



Thomas S. Millot Sr. joined the United States Navy on February 8, 1938 in St. Louis, Missouri as an Apprentice Seaman. He went to Boot Training at the Naval Training Station, San Diego, California. After four months of training, he was transferred to the *USS SARATOGA (CV3)*, "Sara" a carrier.

He remembers that prior to World War II the "Sara" participated in opening of the 1939 World's Fair, which was held on manmade Treasure Island in San Francisco Bay. The ship's powerful carbon searchlights swept the night skies. The "Sara" arrived in Pearl Harbor about five days after the Japanese attack. He remembers that the *USS Arizona* was still burning and the once beautiful harbor was a shock to see.

In February 1942, somewhere off Midway Island, around 7:30 p.m., a Japanese submarine torpedoed the "Sara". The ship and crew made it back to Pearl Harbor where the ship was temporarily patched and eventually reached Bremerton, Washington for an extended refurbishing. At that time, ninety percent of the crew was transferred to other ships. Tom was transferred to the Naval

Station on Tutuila Island of American Samoa. The 2nd Marines were on the island training for their big Pacific push to Guadalcanal and Iwo Jima. Tom's job was to supervise the loading and unloading of ships by the native Samoans.

After Tom left Samoa he helped commission the *USS SHAULA (AK118)*, a merchant Liberty Ship that had been converted to a Navy Cargo to carry troops. After a shakedown cruise, he went through the Panama Canal and back into the Pacific Theatre until the end of World War II.

Tom was discharged as a Chief Boatswains Mate. He attained a Bachelor of Architecture Degree at Washington University, St. Louis on the GI Bill. During that time, he applied for and was commissioned an Ensign in the United States Navy Reserve.

As a new officer, during the Korean War, he served aboard the *USS ALSHAIN (AKA55)*. It was a merchant Victory Ship converted to carry boats and personnel for amphibious landing operations. He boarded the ship in Moji Co, Japan. After spending a short time off of Korea, the ship was transferred to the east coast for a six-month tour of duty in the Mediterranean. This was a chance for Tom to see another large part of the world.

He was released from active duty on August 23, 1952. He stayed in the United States Navy Reserves until he retired.

Tom's awards, medals, and citation include:

- World War II Victory Medal
- Asiatic Pacific Medal
- American Campaign Medal
- Philippine Liberation Medal
- National Defense Service Medal
- American Defense Medal
- Naval Reserve Medal
- Good Conduct Medal
- United Nations, Korea

Tom had four children, one deceased. He has eight Missouri

grandchildren and two great grandchildren. He is a registered architect and was employed in his later working years with the Post Office Department and Corps of Engineers.

Tom belongs to the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, Inc. He has sung in a quartet for sixty-four years and is past president of three different chapters. He belongs to two gourmet cooking groups. He is Commander of a Veterans' of Foreign Wars' Post. He enjoys playing bridge, cycling, boating, fishing, skiing, and photography.