

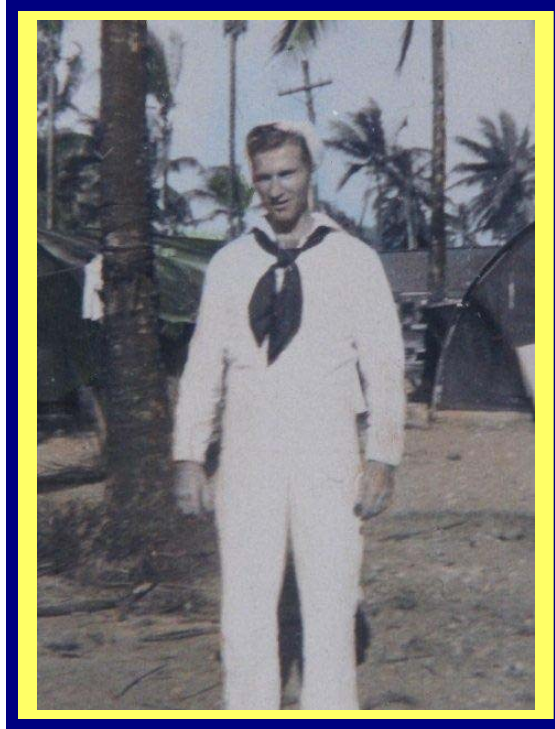
Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution  
Proudly "Spotlights" our November 2011  
Patriot of the Month



**Thame  
Whisenand**

Sponsored by:

**Armstrong Chapter  
Armstrong, Missouri**



Thame Whisenand attended high school in Kellogg, Iowa. He worked as a police officer for the Maytag Company in Newton, Iowa where they were building parts for the P51 Mustang plane. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy on December 19, 1943.

Thane went to boot camp at Great Lakes, Illinois before leaving for San Francisco, California. From there, he left on the *USS Hermitage* bound for New Guinea. He was assigned as a gunner on a 20MM anti-aircraft gun on the trip to New Guinea, although, he had not received any prior training on this type of gun. After arriving in New Guinea, Thame was assigned as a photographer for V-mail. He travelled from the Southern end to the Northern end of New Guinea and during this trip he developed a severe headache due to the high altitude. Because of the headaches, he volunteered to go to Leyte, Philippines. He followed the Marines and set up a tent on the beach for doing their V-mail that needed to be sent out. After volunteering to go to the Philippines with the Marines, he was ordered to catch the first ship. The ship was an ammunition ship with escorts consisting of one destroyer and three destroyer escorts.

Later, in the Philippines, Thame piloted a Patrol Torpedo Landing craft.

When Thame was on his way home from the Philippines, the ship ran into a typhoon. The ship was immediately anchored down and turned directly into the typhoon where they set for seven days. After the typhoon passed the ship went on to Treasure Island, San Francisco, California. In San Francisco, Thame caught a troop train and went to Minneapolis, Minnesota, where he received an honorable discharge on December 17, 1945 with the rank of Third Class Petty Officer. He remembers receiving an overseas ribbon and three combat stars.

Thame shared the following remembrances from his time in the service: He laughingly said his first job at boot camp was cutting pie and serving it to the officers and the reason he got the job was because he was able to cut the pie evenly in five pieces.

He also shared that he was in pain and went to see the medic in a tent at Gilla-Gilla, New Guinea. It was determined he had a ruptured appendix and gangrene was setting in, so emergency surgery was immediately performed in the tent.

After he was discharged from the Navy, Thame became a farmer. In 1957, he went to work part-time for the State Highway Department, and in 1970 he went to work full-time, working there for 23 years, retiring in 1980. After retiring, he returned to farming.

Thame married Ruth Scoville in 1937 and she passed away in 1987. They had two sons, six grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. In 1989, he married Pearl Scott, who passed in 1994; he then married Elsie Johnson on June 23, 1994.

Thame is a member of the Baptist Church, Missouri Sheriff's Association, life-member of the National Rifle Association, and Veterans of Foreign Wars. He enjoys shooting firearms on his farm and making toy airplanes.