

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



**Thomas "Tom"  
Clark**

**Sponsored by:**

**Armstrong Chapter  
Armstrong, Missouri**



Thomas "Tom" Clark graduated from Baldwin High School, Baldwin City, Kansas, in 1944. The day after graduation, he enlisted in the Navy on May 25, 1944.

Tom attended boot camp at Great Lakes, Illinois. After boot camp, he travelled by troop train to San Diego, California, where he was reassigned to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. After arriving at Pearl Harbor, he was sent to Enewetak, Marshall Islands in the Pacific. He was assigned to YW-77 (Yard Waterer) on a barge. Tom stated that upon arriving at Enewetak they had to scout around for cots, food, etc., as they had no place to sleep. He said fresh water was hauled to the Marshall Islands on big tankers. He was later assigned to YO-187, a large concrete water barge still in the Marshall Islands.

The war was over in September 1945, but Tom did not leave the Marshall Islands until February 1946. He then went to San Pedro, California and received a thirty-day leave to go home. After his leave, he went to San Francisco, California, where he shipped out

to Shanghai, China. After two days, he was transferred to Tsingtao where he was assigned to the *USS Stentor (ARL-26)*, a yard repair ship. After six months, he was transferred to San Pedro, California as his ship underwent an overhaul. He was then transferred to San Diego, California where he was discharged on October 18, 1947, after serving 3 years, 4 months and 24 days in the Navy. The ship was tied up between two buoys and still setting there when he was discharged.

His medals and awards include:

- American Area Campaign Medal
- Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal
- Good Conduct Medal
- World War II Victory Medal

Tom returned to Winfield, Kansas, where his mother lived. Tom lost his Dad on February 8, 1945 and did not know this until he received a letter from his mother two weeks later. Eventually, the Red Cross did notify him as well.

In January 1948, Tom enrolled at Southwestern College in Winfield. He met his future wife, Vera Mead, at the college where she was also a student. They married on December 19, 1948. Graduating in May 1951, Tom received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration and Vera received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education and Business Administration.

Vera passed on September 7, 2005. Tom and Vera had five children and ten grandchildren. Tom married Agnes Kreek on September 30, 2006.

While attending college, Tom worked in a shoe store part-time. After graduating from college, Tom worked as a traveling salesman for six months traveling to Minnesota selling rubber footwear for Ball Band. To avoid being on the road so much, he went to work for a shoe store in Wellington, Kansas. Later, he moved to Moberly, bought a shoe store, renamed it and opened the doors on February 21, 1955. He retired July 24, 1994.

Tom is a member of Trinity Methodist Church. He had the honor of going on the Honor Flight to Washington, DC in April 2010 to see the World War II memorial.