

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution
Proudly "Spotlights" our May 2012
Patriot of the Month



**Joe Stanton
Thompson**

Sponsored by:

**Kansas City Chapter
Kansas City,
Missouri**



J. Stanton Thompson graduated from the University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri in 1970 with a Bachelor of Science Degree, majoring in Agricultural Business and in 1974 with a Bachelor of Journalism Degree, majoring in advertising. He was commissioned through the Navy Reserve Officer Training Corps and was initially assigned to the *USS Kilanea (AE-26)* as gunnery officer, then cargo officer and finally First Lieutenant, a department head position. During two extensive deployments, *Kilanea* supplied ammunition to U.S. Naval Forces conducting combat operations off the coast of Vietnam. He was released from active duty in September 1972.

He was recalled to active duty in September 1990 in support of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. He served as Commander, Port Security Harbor Defense Group TWO, Port of Al Jubail, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. As group commander, he was responsible for the maritime defense of this strategic port.

From 1992 to 1995, Captain Thompson served as Commander, Inshore Undersea Warfare Group TWO, Williamsburg, Virginia. This command consisted of fourteen commissioned hardware equipped Mobile Inshore Undersea Warfare Units (MIUWUs). As commodore he provided and supported MIUWU forces during Operation Uphold Democracy in Haiti.

He was promoted to Rear Admiral (RADM) in July of 1998 and assigned as Vice Commander, Maritime Defense Zone Pacific, Coast Guard Island, Alameda, California. He was responsible to the Commander, a Coast Guard Vice Admiral, for the seaward protection of vital civilian seaports along the western coast of the United States.

From 1999-2002, RADM Thompson served as the Mobilization Assistant to the Director of Operations (J3) at United States Pacific Command, Camp Smith, Hawaii and was responsible for planning, coordinating, executing joint and combined military training exercises within the Pacific theatre of operations.

In 2000-2001, RADM Thompson commanded Naval Reserve Readiness Command Midwest, which included twenty-six fleet operational support centers and 8,000 personnel. Under his command REDCOM-MW received the prestigious RADM F. Neale Smith Excellence Award as the number one reserve command in the nation.

His final military assignment was Special Assistant for Reserve matters to the Commander, United States Northern Command and North American Aero-Space Defense Command (USNORTHCOM), Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado Springs, Colorado. RADM Thompson was responsible for the integration of reserve forces into homeland defense and defense support to civilian authorities. He also served as a principal advisor to the Commander for maritime homeland defense. USNORTHCOM was created following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. He was one of a handful of flag and general officers chosen to stand-up the command. He retired July 9, 2005 after thirty-five years of service.

RADM Thompson's awards include:

- Defense Superior Service Medal (two awards)
- Legion of Merit (two awards)
- Navy and Marine Corps Medal
- Meritorious Service Medal (three awards)
- Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (three awards)
- Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal
- Joint Meritorious Unit Commendation
- Meritorious Unit Commendation
- Navy Unit Commendation
- National Defense Service Medal w/bronze star

In 2008-2010, he served as Co-Chair of the *USS Missouri (SSN 780)* Commissioning Committee. Three thousand guests attended the commissioning

ceremony held July 31, 2010 in Groton, Connecticut. The new *Missouri* is the fifth ship to carry the name of our state. It is the newest and most modern nuclear powered attack submarine in the fleet.

In March 2011 RADM Thompson was appointed to the Missouri Military Preparedness and Enhancement Commission, which has the responsibility of supporting military installations, service members, and families (both federal and National Guard) located within the state.

A native of Missouri, Stanton graduated from Slater High School in 1966. He retired in November 2008, after thirty-three years, as the Executive Director of the Lafayette County Missouri Office of the Farm Service Agency, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. He currently is co-owner of AgSolutions Plus and manages the family farming operation. He is a Rotarian, Master Mason, and a member of the Salem United Church of Christ.

He and the former Sandra Kay Kirby have been married over forty years. They have three children and eight grandchildren.