

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



**Kennith E. Wetzel**

Sponsored by:

Armstrong Chapter  
Armstrong, Missouri



**Kennith E. Wetzel graduated in 1968 from Thayer High School in Thayer, Missouri. He enlisted in the United States Navy on June 26, 1968 and attended boot camp at Great Lakes, Illinois. After boot camp, he was sent to Norfolk Amphibious Base, Virginia where he went aboard the *USS Francis Marion (LPA 249)* with the Atlantic Fleet. Later he transferred to Long Beach, California Naval Base, and then was sent to Little Creek Naval Base, Virginia.**

**Kennith was aboard the *USS Francis Marion (LPA 249)* when it served as the secondary recovery ship for the Apollo 8 Mission. He received a medallion stamped from a sphere of metal from Apollo 8 when it made the trip around the moon. He was a member of the *USS Francis Marion's* Special Landing Team and was part of King Neptune's Rex Shellback Equator crossing.**

**Kennith was a part of the commissioning crew of the *USS Boulder County (LST 1190)* in Long Beach, California, making him a plank owner.**

**Kennith was discharged from the Navy on April 14, 1972 with the rank of SHSN (E-3). He received a National Defense Service Ribbon and the Apollo 8 Medallion.**

**After being discharged from the Navy, Kennith went to work for the Frisco Railroad in Thayer, Missouri. He later worked for the State of Missouri in Law Enforcement for twenty-eight years. He attended the Missouri Highway Patrol Academy Law Enforcement School in Jefferson City, Missouri and has received credits from the Law Enforcement School at the University of Missouri in Columbia, Missouri. He received the State of Missouri Military Recognition Service Medal.**

**Kennith married Michelle "Shelly" Clark on April 20, 1972 in Huntsville, Missouri. They have two children. They are the grandparents of five grandchildren.**

**Kennith is a member of Coates Street Presbyterian Church and M. Graham Clark Chapter Sons of the American Revolution. Kennith's wife, Shelly, is a member of the Armstrong Chapter DAR.**