



Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution  
Patriot of the Month  
April 2013



**Joseph Steven Kenton**

Sponsored by:

**Prairie Chapter DAR**

Joseph Steven Kenton first tried to enlist in the Navy when he was seventeen but was refused due to being too young. At twenty in the fall of 1941 he signed up for the V-7, an officers training program whose graduates were often referred to as “90 Day Wonder’s.” In that time frame they were trained and were officers and gentlemen by Act of Congress!

Joseph’s first sea duty was on a WWII destroyer. He went onboard just after the Battle of Midway in June, 1942. They were part of a division of four destroyers that patrolled off Pearl Harbor, primarily doing anti-submarine work. Equipment was pretty primitive then, they had sonar that sent our pings seeking echoes from the submarines. They went largely back and forth from Diamond Head to Bishops Point, Hawaii pinging.....pinging....pinging. It was called the “Ping Line.”

Next Joseph was sent to Guadalcanal on the Solomon Islands offensive and in 1943 he was sent to the southwest pacific, this was Mac Arthur's terrain. The crew participated in several landings up the coast of New Guinea and in May, 1943 he got orders to report to the Amphibious Training Base in Little Creek, Virginia for duty on LSM's. Lt. Joseph Kenton was the commanding officer, he and his men were trained as a crew, officer and men together. In December they were sent to Chicago where the ship was being built. When completed they took the ship down the Illinois and Mississippi rivers, through the Panama Canal, up to San Diego, and out to Hawaii. Then they were sent all over the Central and Western Pacific and finally when the war was over they ended up in the Yellow Sea at North China.

Joseph became a civilian in 1946. He has been an instructor at Kansas State University, a Missouri State Representative from 1972 - 1980, and a Center School board member.

The Prairie Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution are proud to honor Joseph S. Kenton as Patriot of the Month and thank him for his patriotism and service to our country.