

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution Proudly Honors



Patriot of the Month
February 2017



Carl “Frank”
Frevort

United States Navy

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Marshall
Chapter



Frank entered the service January 1962. He went to boot camp in San Diego, California, spent time at Alameda Naval Air Station, and then transferred to Boston, Massachusetts shipyards. While stationed there, he met his future wife, Barbara.

He boarded the *USS Worden (DLG-18)* when it first launched July 1962. The ship sailed to Norfolk, Virginia to take on ammunition before heading to its main base at San Diego, California. On November 2, 1963, they traveled through the Panama Canal, and on November 6, 1963, they crossed the equator (considered a rare and great honor). This is also his most memorable event. The ship traveled up and down the West Coast stopping at Seattle, Washington, Hawaii, Guam, Midway, the Philippines, Japan, Taiwan, and Vietnam. The longest stint was 40 days at the Gulf of Tonkin, Vietnam. Frank served as boatswain 3rd class.

Frank's duties included “a lot of deck swabbing and painting. The decks had to be swabbed at least twice a day.” He was on a crew which did high lining (removal and loading of vital supplies, including food) and everything else associated with upper deck maintenance. His white tennis shoes indicated that he was an upper deck man. He wore the boatswains mate pipe on a lanyard, which is pictured in the ships yearbook. He was responsible for sounding the whistle and announcing visitors to the ship. However, most of his time was spent running boats to rescue downed pilots.

The ship was involved in every major operation in the Tonkin Gulf during the Vietnam War. In 1963, the *USS Worden (DLG-18)* was the most powerful frigate in the Navy. It was equipped with submarine depth charges, surface to underwater weapon anti-submarine system (ASROC), helicopter, and missiles. Frank was considered a “blue-water boatswains mate”, whereas those who served along the river routes were considered “brown-water boatswain mates” (these men were involved with Agent Orange). Frank was scheduled for discharge in January 1966, but the crew was short a few men and the tour was involuntarily extended by four months. At the end of that time, Frank volunteered for another two months for the same reason. He was officially discharged from the United States Navy in July 1966, at San Diego.

Frank was most proud of his “Pollywog to Shellback” designation from the crossing of the equator ceremony and his passing through the Panama Canal. He earned the “Solemn Mysteries of the Ancient Order of the Deep” and the “Order of the Locks” certificates respectively. He was awarded the Vietnam Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, and First Good Conduct Award. He served with a perfect attendance record. He jokingly adds, “Well, you can’t jump.” He still deeply grieves that a miscommunication about air tickets payment left him stranded in California while his family delayed his grandfather’s funeral for two days awaiting his expected arrival-which never happened.

Before his service, Frank worked as a car salesman. Upon his discharge, the first order of business was to purchase a new 1966 Mustang and drive to Massachusetts to ask Barbara to marry him. After another year of courting, they were married. Frank worked for a car dealership for several years before he started working for a bakery, again with perfect service, for 25 years. Barbara was well known for her homemade pies sold at local restaurants, her membership of the Eastern Star organization, and 19-years of service on the local school board. Her term was cut short when she was diagnosed with lung cancer which had progressively moved into her brain. Frank solicited the board and was appointed after her death to fill her remaining two years, in honor of their 32 years of marriage. He was elected to a two-year city council seat and was mayor of his town for eight years. He delivered ‘Meals on Wheels’ for several years. He has been an active member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and has served on the Honor Guard. Although he is not a member, he participates in Patriot Guard funerals when called. No longer Mayor, Frank has ridden with “Ride to the Wall” for the past four years. This is a four-day motorcycle ride which ends at the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington, DC to honor Prisoners of War, those missing in action, and those killed in Vietnam.

Marshall Daughters are proud to honor Carl Franklin “Frank” Frevert as Patriot of the Month for his patriotism, dedication, and service to our great nation.