

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution
Proudly "Spotlights" our December 2010
Patriot of the Month



**Kenneth M.
Christian**

Sponsored by:

**Armstrong Chapter
Armstrong, Missouri**

In 1942 Kenneth Christian graduated from Moberly High School and enlisted in the Navy. He attended boot camp at Great Lakes, Illinois and then went to the Naval Air Station in Norfolk, Virginia, where he received training as an Aviation Machinist Mate. He attended a sixteen-week school at Naval Air Technical Training Center, Chicago, Illinois, and then returned to Norfolk, Virginia.

Kenneth was stationed at several bases throughout the United States and aboard the *USS Bon Homme Richard* in the Pacific Fleet. As a combat veteran on the *USS Bon Homme Richard*, Kenneth remembers being attacked by a Japanese Kamikaze, which was shot down during the dive and landed in the Pacific Ocean.

On September 2, 1945, he was serving in the same fleet as the *USS Missouri* when the surrender treaty was signed. In Guam his ship picked up 2,000 Marines and returned to San Francisco, California on October 20, 1945. He was discharged in St. Louis, Missouri on December 7, 1945.

He received the following medals and ribbons:

- American Campaign Medal
- Asian-Pacific Campaign Medal
- Navy Good Conduct Medal
- World War II Victory Medal
- Navy Occupation Service Medal (Asia Clasp)
- National Defense Service Medal
- Philippine Liberation Medal
- Combat Action Ribbon
- Bronze Star
- Philippines Republic Presidential Unit Citation Badge

Kenneth returned to Moberly and worked at a jewelry store. He then moved to Utah as a telegraph operator apprentice, and later returned to Moberly where he worked as a parts manager.

Due to the Korean War, the Navy recalled Kenneth in October 1950 and discharged him in January 1952. He then went to work for Trans World Airways, Kansas City, Missouri, as an aircraft engine overall mechanic. He joined the U.S. Coast Guard in July 1954 and worked there until he retired in January 1972. Also, he was a member of the Civil Air Patrol over 21 years.

Kenneth married Bemiece Allen on November 21, 1946. They had two sons and adopted a daughter. On November 19, 1977, he married Lucile Lightfoot. Kenneth and Lucile's family numbers a total of fifty-four children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Kenneth is a member of the Trinity United Methodist Church and a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and Disabled American Veterans.