



**Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution
Patriot of the Month
December, 2012**



Richard “Dick” Wallace Rogers

Sponsored by:

Poplar Bluff Chapter DAR

Richard Wallace (Dick) Rogers was born December, 1922, in St. Louis. He graduated from Beaumont High School in January, 1941, and began working toward his college degree. Dick enlisted in the Navy in February, 1942, and qualified for the Navy College Training Program. The Navy foresaw a shortage of college educated officers, so began the program in 1943. Dick's training started at Westminster College in Fulton, MO, but his company was sent to Plattsburgh, New York, for Naval Officer training. Before being sent overseas, he spent several months in Miami, Florida, aboard a ship hunting Nazi submarines.

In late October, 1944, Dick was sent to Hollandia, New Guinea, and was assigned to the USS PC-1598 in the Pacific. For the next two months they escorted convoys among the ports of New Guinea and aided readiness for the Lingayen assault. The PC-1598 left Hollandia in January, 1945, on escort duty to San Pedro Bay, Leyte. He arrived in Ulithi in February, and was involved in transporting men from one area to another within the fleet. Along with six other mine craft, the PC-598 sailed from Ulithi to sweep mines off Okinawa, clearing the way for pre-invasion bombardment and the assault landing of April 1st.

While clearing mines near Guam, Dick recalls an American destroyer moving into an area that had not been swept. Everything was done to signal the ship, but the destroyer hit a mine. Crew from the ship sped to try to rescue the men, but many were lost. The ship returned to duty in the Marianas, and at one point rendezvoused off Saipan with a submarine to pick up a severely ill officer. The ship returned to San Francisco, where Dick remained until the ship was decommissioned.

Before shipping out to the Pacific, Dick married his longtime sweetheart, Virginia Marie Gessett on October 10, 1944. After the war they settled in St. Louis, where Dick completed his education with a BS and BA in Business Administration. During his career Dick was employed by Earnst and Earnst, Rawlings Manufacturing Company, and finally Ralston Purina Company first as Corporate Controller and then as Vice President.

Dick and Virginia have three sons and a daughter, seven grandchildren, and eleven great grandchildren. Much of his time is spent exercising his tenor voice singing sentimental and patriotic songs for his church, the Friendship Village Community, and family. Dick is a member of the American Legion Post 312. He has served on the Board of Directors of Friendship Village, on a St. Louis area hospital board, and also on his church's financial board. Dick and Virginia's generosity has provided a bus for school children in Honduras and also helped update several areas of the Friendship Village Health Center.

The members of the Poplar Bluff Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution wish to extend their gratitude and thanks to Dick Rogers for his service to our great country.