



**Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution  
Patriot of the Month  
November 2013**



**Vernon L. Crow**

Sponsored by

**Armstrong Chapter**

Vernon Crow graduated from Sigourney High School in Sigourney, Iowa, in 1942. He received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Political Science from the University of Pennsylvania in 1957, and received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Education from the University of Maryland in 1968.

Vernon enlisted in the Navy and did boot camp at Farragut, Idaho, Aviation Radio School, Radar School at Memphis, Tennessee, and Aerial Free Gunnery School at Jacksonville, Florida. He was commissioned as an officer on June 2, 1948. Other schools Vernon attended were Relief School, Lighter Than Air School (Blimp Pilot), Sonar School (Sound, Navigation & Ranging), Electronics



School, Rules of the Nautical Road and Naval War College, Naval Post Graduate School, Aircraft Accident Investigation School, and several aviator schools for pilot training. He saw duty as a rear seat gunner and radio man on a Douglas Dive Bomber, and also saw submarine duty. He flew 38 different models of aircraft, was a test pilot, a nuclear weapons delivery pilot, aerial gunner, radio operator, and radar operator.

Some of Vernon's missions during his military career included: 1958 – 1960 – served as ship's navigator while cruising back and forth in the Taiwan Straits to keep the Communist Chinese from invading; flying the first plane into Guantanamo Bay, Cuba during the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1963; keeping track of Russian Ships all over the world; did map making in Korea, Newfoundland, Labrador, and Alaska some of which were used for the Alaska Pipeline; led an all-volunteer boarding party during the Viet Nam War on what was believed to be a spy ship, which did not respond to signals.

Vernon retired in 1968, but volunteered for two more years and retired again with an honorable discharge with the rank of Lt. Commander on June 30, 1970. Vernon served a total of twenty-seven years, one month, and seven days in the military, with active service in WW II, Korea, and Viet Nam. He received the following medals: Expert Pistol Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Navy Expeditionary Medal, Navy Good Conduct Medal, American Area Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal, Korean Service Medal, United Nations Medal, Expert Rifleman Medal and European, African, Middle East Campaign Ribbon.

Vernon married Marjorie Stricklin on April 5, 1952. Marjorie passed in 1992. They had five children: David (deceased), Kelvin, Byron, Laura, and Quintin. They have thirteen grandchildren and four great grandchildren. Vernon married Della Ellingson in 2008. Vernon is proud his four sons served in the military and between father and sons, they have served 109 years active duty and twenty years in the reserves.

After retirement from the military, Vernon taught Science at Shawnee Mission Northwest High School for five years, then retired again. He is a



member of the United Methodist Church, lifetime member of the VFW, and lifetime member of the American Legion.

The members of the Armstrong Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution wish to extend their gratitude and thanks to Vernon Crow for his service to our great country.