

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution



Patriot of the Month December 2015



Gerald Truman Ray

Sponsored by:

Meyongo Chapter

Gerald Truman Ray was born 23 October 1923, in Sloan, Iowa. He joined the United States Navy in July 1944, as a gunners mate. Therefore, he was responsible for operation and maintenance of missile launching systems, gun mounts, and other ordnance equipment, as well as small arms and pneumatic systems. While Jerry was on the USS San Francisco it returned to Okinawa, arriving in Okinawa. For the next few days, San Francisco supported the 96th Infantry Division in an area to the southeast of Yonabaru. On 20 May, she shifted to Kutaka Shima, and by the night of 22nd, she had depleted her supply of ammunition for her main batteries. On the 25th, the Japanese launched a large air attack against Allied shipping in Nakagusuku Wan. On the 27th, the San Francisco provided fire support for the 77th Infantry Division, and retired to Kerama Retto the next day. On the 30th, the cruiser returned to the western side of Okinawa and, for the next two weeks, supported operations of the 1st and 6th Marine Divisions.

Jerry received the following medals for his service: Asiatic Pacific, American Campaign, and Victory medals.

When Jerry came home he was a grocery clerk and assistant manager for several grocery stores. He married Mildred, and they had a daughter, Bonnie (Ray) Wilcox. Jerry has been an active member in his local Baptist church and a very good mentor for his church family. Jerry retired in March 1986. After the loss of his first wife he met and married Peggy Jane (Fudge) Perkins in November 2005. He loved to square dance, bowl and play golf, but age has taken its toll and he's not able to do these things anymore. Gerald Ray is not only a patriot, serviceman, and soldier demonstrating the highest of courage and honor, he is a great credit upon himself, the United States Navy, and the United States of America.

The Daughters of the Meyongo Chapter DAR are proud to nominate Gerald Truman Ray as Patriot of the Month and extend their gratitude for his patriotic service and commitment to our great nation.