

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution

Proudly Honors

Patriot of the Month

November 2021



Andrew J. Kohm, Jr.

United States Navy



Sponsored by:
Cornelia Greene
Chapter

Andrew J. Kohm, Jr. was born January 11, 1930 on a farm in McBride, Missouri, one of four siblings. After graduation from Perryville High School in 1947, he worked a few jobs as a laborer, riveter, farmer, and then as a deckhand on Mississippi towboats for about a year. Then came the Korean War. Andrew enlisted in the U.S. Navy on January 5, 1951, at the age of 21 having deckhand experience. He served aboard the destroyer, USS *Marshall*, which he helped to recommission at the U.S. Naval Station, San Diego, California before the ship and crew joined the Pacific fleet traveling to ports in Hawaii, Midway, Japan, Hong Kong, and Australia. He served throughout the Korean War until his discharge on November 2, 1954, rising from the rank of Seaman Apprentice to the rank of Quartermaster Third Class. While a Seaman, he performed ship maintenance and line handling duties. As a Quartermaster, he stood watch as an assistant to

officers of the deck and the navigator; served as helmsman and performed ship control, navigation, and bridge watch duties, which included keeping navigational charts updated and ready for use, locating the ship's position and plotting the ship's course.

Andrew remembers once they lost a man overboard in a bad storm. Thankfully, the man was a good swimmer, and he was picked up by another ship following the *Marshall* in the convoy, because the man was not wearing a life jacket when he went overboard.

Andrew is entitled to wear the following service ribbons: National Defense, China Service, Korean Service, United Nations, Navy Occupation, and KPUC.

Andrew has supported the VFW with donations since his discharge.

After his honorable discharge on November 2, 1954, Andrew came back home to Missouri, met Alice Clessa, and as of October 29, 2021, they will be celebrating their 66th Wedding Anniversary. He has two children and three grandchildren. After discharge, he also began his career as an electrical engineer. Andrew attended Washington University in St. Louis for his first certificate in Electronics in 1963 and continued his education from there to become certified as a Professional Engineer in April 1971 and enjoyed an extensive career as an electrical engineer, retiring from Union Electric after 33 years in 1988.

Cornelia Greene Daughters are very proud to honor and recognize Andrew J. Kohm, Jr. as Patriot of the Month for his patriotism and dedicated service to our great nation.