

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution

Proudly Honors

Patriot of the Month

November 2022

Andrew Johnson

United States Navy

Sponsored by:
Westport Chapter, NSDAR



Andrew Johnson joined the United States Navy in October, 1942 as a Seaman, First Class. He was sent to the Hutchinson, KS Naval Air Base for basic training and went to work with Stearman airplanes, which were biplanes that were used as military trainers. While at Hutchinson, Andy passed his exam for Aviation Machinist Mate Third Class and was made Captain of 3 AT-6 airplanes.

Andy's next assignment was Wold Chamberlain Field in Minneapolis, MN. From there, he was assigned to Kanohe Naval Air Station in Hawaii. Andy arrived at Kanohe just as Saipan was under attack. His duties included repairing SB2C, F6F, PBM, and PBX aircraft.



The most devastating thing Andy saw during his military career was the damage done at Pearl Harbor. Andy says the best advice he was given was to "never volunteer for anything!"

Andrew Johnson was born on December 28, 1922 on a farm in Vliets, KS. He was a graduate of Topeka High School. Following his military career, Andy returned to Topeka and enrolled in Washburn University. He graduated with his BBA degree - completing it in three years, while working two jobs!

Andy's career began at Whelans Lumber Company as an estimator. From there, he moved to United Corporation, where he was Vice-President, working with claiming and recycling copper wire. He ended his work life as a Medical Contracting Officer for the State of Kansas.

Andy married his high school sweetheart, Patricia Phillips, in August 1946. They were married 61 years until her death in 2007. They had two children, Kathy and Dan. Andy has four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Andy's daughter, Kathy, is a member of Westport Chapter DAR.

Andy is a member of the Masons, Sertoma Club, and the American Legion. As he gets ready to celebrate his 100th birthday in December, Andy remains very active. He enjoys playing bridge, Facebook, staying in touch with friends and family via email, and walking his dog, Gus, every day!

In 2017, Andy had the privilege of going on the Heartland Honor Flight to Washington, DC. He said it was one of the most memorable and moving experiences of his life.