

# Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution

## Proudly Honors

### Patriot of the Month

December 2022

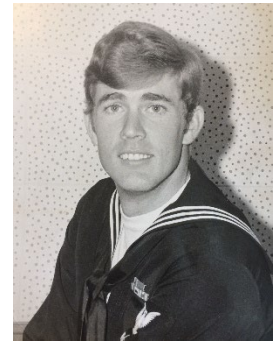


## Victor “Vic” Cook

### United States Navy

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When asked about his family, Victor “Vic” Cook will speak proudly of his grandfather who served as a doughboy in France during WWI. He’ll tell you about the major battles he was in and carrying ammo to the front lines. Or he’ll tell you about his great uncles, one at Pearl Harbor when the Japanese attacked on December 7, 1941, the other a corpsman who survived the same day attack on Guam and became a POW. They both lived to be over 100 years old.



Perhaps it was their legacy that led Vic to join the navy immediately after high school.

On August 2, 1966 he left his home in Kansas City, Missouri and reported for bootcamp in San Diego, CA. On November 10, 1966, he boarded the USS Shelton DD790 in San Diego for his first tour of Vietnam. He served here until January 1968. While Vic applied to be a navy weatherman, the Navy, instead, sent Vic straight to the fleet to work in the 120-degree heat of a destroyer boiler room.

After many appeals to the ship’s commanders, they finally got tired of his asking and in February 1968, Vic left the Shelton for a short leave and then he reported to Lakehurst, New Jersey where he went to aerographer’s mate school to become a meteorologist. He completed his education in July 1968 and then went to Norfolk, Virginia for SERE (Naval Survival Evasion resistance and Escape) training (Survival School). From there he went to the Western Pacific.

In August 1968 he arrived at Airborne Early Warning Squadron One home based on Guam. The squadron’s primary mission was to track and fly into typhoons to provide early warning to the Asian countries. Second mission was airborne support of allied sea and aircraft off the coast of North Vietnam. Part of his duties took him to Chu-lai, South Vietnam, just below the DMZ (south of Da Nang). While not in direct combat, sometimes small arms fire was aimed at his aircraft on departures and landings, and occasionally the enemy would launch rocket attacks on the base.

A year later, he and a lieutenant received orders to the Pacific Missile Range in Point Mugu, California. Their mission was to assist in forming a new squadron to track hurricanes off the west coast of Mexico. Following this assignment, he returned to Guam for two months and then proceeded to the Naval Air Station in Los Alamitos in Orange County, California. In 1970, he was honorably discharged at the rank of Petty Officer Second Class.

During his service he received the National Defense Service Medal, Navy Good Conduct Medal, Vietnam Service Medal and the one he is most proud of—the Air Medal (representing 250 combat flight hours). He states that one of the most interesting things he was able to do in his naval career was to fly into the eye of a typhoon.

Following his service, and while living in Los Alamitos, he noticed a pretty young blonde in the apartment next to his. He asked her out and they spent the day at the beach followed by a cheeseburger and fries at McDonalds. Little did he know he would marry her the following year.

Returning to Kansas City, Missouri Vic served as a private meteorologist and manager for the Midwest Weather Service which later became Global Weather Services. During his 20-year career he provided agricultural weather services.

He later worked in information technology for Oracle and then began a career in public protection working for the City of Kansas City. He hoped to regulate the pay day loan companies but a resolution he wrote for a city councilman was never presented and was never used. It is one of the frustrations of his life.

He later joined the American Association of Veterinary State Boards as the Director of Strategic Information prior to retiring in 2017.

In retirement, Vic continues his commitment to his community, having served on the Board of Directors and Chair of the Lutheran Urban Mission Agency, an organization for which he still volunteers. He also volunteers at the food pantry and is on the Board of Directors of the Beautiful Savior Lutheran Home in Belton, Missouri.

Vic follows the old adage of “Find a job you like and you’ll never work a day in your life.” His best advice—enjoy what you do; make it enjoyable.

Vic lives in Kansas City, Missouri with his wife Bev of 51 years. They have a daughter, son, and two granddaughters.