

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution

Proudly Honors

Patriot of the Month

June 2023



Robert W. Arant, Jr.

United States Navy

Sponsored by:

Jane Randolph Jefferson Chapter, NSDAR

Robert (Bob) W. Arant, Jr., enlisted in the Naval Reserves in Omaha, NE, in 1968. The Vietnam War was raging and he chose to enlist in the Naval Reserves for six years instead of waiting to be drafted. When called up to active duty, he first served on the guided missile destroyer USS King DLG10, later on the destroyer escort USS Rathburne



DE1057. He was assigned to the Engine Room as a Fireman. When asked about a memorable moment during his time, he shared the story of a door issue they countered while on a cruise in a tropical region. There was a problem with a door mechanism which helped prevent hot air from the engine room from drafting to upper decks. A meeting was called that included officers and the enlisted to discuss and find a solution. As everyone racked their brains trying to figure out how to fix the problem. Fireman Arant spoke up and said there is an identical door on the escape trunk, so why not just swap them out. Everyone stopped and stared as they processed the simple solution. The repair was completed in an hour.

When asked what he enjoyed most about the service, he grinned and said "getting out". Looking back he said it was a good way for a young kind to come of age, get out into the world and grown up. Leave mom and dad's home and figure out if you are the kind of person who can adapt, get on your own feet and make your own way.

Fireman Arant gave a total six year commitment, with two of those year being active duty during the Vietnam War.