

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution

Proudly Honors

Patriot of the Month

November 2023



Dan Rattner

United States Coast Guard

Sponsored by:
Saint Charles Chapter, NSDAR

Although many Coast Guardsman went to Viet Nam, Dan Rattner's tour started on 1 August 1965 in Cape May, NJ for basic training into the Coast Guard. After training, he was ordered to Honolulu with orders for the Cutter Chautauqua. It is a high endurance cutter that does search and rescue; federal law enforcement aid; aid to navigation and weather patrols, called Ocean Station Victor. On weather patrols, they would send daily weather reports from the north Pacific Ocean, between Hawaii and Japan and report on the weather over the Pacific Ocean. These reports would be used as a beacon for aircraft flying across the Pacific Ocean. The cutter had a United State Public Health Doctor on board for the occasion when they had to render aid to motor vessels in distress. After 30 days, they would get supplies from Japan and turn toward home base and do it all over again on their way back to Hawaii. He received orders for a Class A school at the Coast Guard Training Center in Groton, CT for the rank of Yeoman. After Yeoman school, he went back to Hawaii and was attached to a Marine Inspection Office (MIO). The office did mainly accident investigations and clearing merchant sailors to operate as crew members on United States of America merchant ships. He was ordered to Charlevoix, MI and a Group Office; that is in charge of 13 lighthouses on the upper end of Lake Michigan and 3 lifeboat stations. By then, he was an E5 in rank and the senior member in the office. Their office was attached to a motor life boat station and it was a busy place during boating season; daily calls for boaters in distress and safety patrols on the Great Lakes. He finished his tour and received an Honorable Discharge in 1969. He moved back to Chicago and married Anita Dawn Regilio in 1970. Their son was born in 1972 and Dan took advantage of the GI Bill and went back to school to the Wilson Aerospace Training Center in Kansas City, KS. He received his FAA licenses, Airframe and Powerplant, Commercial Instrument Rating (Pilot). He was in the Naval Reserves for about two years and received another Honorable Discharge. In 1974, he went to work for Trans World Airlines and retired from American Airlines in 2010.

