

# Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution

Proudly Honors

Patriot of the Month

December 2023



## Robert Curry

### United States Navy

Sponsored by:

Virginia Daughters Chapter, NSDAR

I enlisted in June 1967 on the 120-day program and completed boot camp in San Diego, CA winning the company's Academic Award and became an Airman. In January, I reported to Naval Air Technical Training Center in Memphis, TN. While there I attended "P" school which included simulated parachute landings in water, entering and exiting life rafts, both personal and 7-man, plane handling and general carrier operations. After "P" school I attended "A" school for Basic Electronics completing the 16 week course in 10 weeks. Next I attended the Aviation Electronics Technician School. The next assignment was Tranron 21 at Naval Auxiliary Air Station in Kingsville, TX where I was a designated striker Airman and could wear the Aviation Electronics Technician patch over Airman stripes.



I was a "striker" who worked on the calendar check crew for the Cougar F-9F fighter and F-9J trainer. Later working on line maintenance on the F-9s. After attaining Petty Officer 3rd class, I became a Collateral Duty Inspector inspecting and signing off on most of their repairs. Then I achieved Petty Officer 2nd Class and rating of an Aviation Electronics Technician 2nd Class and became supervisor of the line maintenance crew in charge of work assignments record keeping and inspection for the F9s and the new A4L Skyhawk.

In July 1969, I received orders for Naval Amphibious Base Coronado, CA for Advisor training before final assignment to Com 7th Fleet Detachment Charlie in Vietnam. Then in October I reported to Com 7th Fleet Detachment Charlie in Tan Son Nhut Saigon where I was assigned to the line crew to support two C-1A aircraft. These aircraft were assigned to support the carriers on Yankee Station which carried personnel, supplies and mail to those ships. While with the detachment I was able to fly to the USS ranger for a carrier landing and takeoff. This was the only time while I was in the Navy that I was on a ship underway. Then I was transferred to Command Naval Forces Vietnam and sent to the Boat School. This school was to teach Vietnamese sailors English so they could be placed in the crew of a U.S. River Boat. These Vietnamese sailors would eventually replace the U.S. crew and the boats would become a Vietnamese boat.

Next, I was transferred to temporary duty to a boatyard at An Thoi Quoc Island in the Gulf of Siam. This transfer took place on Christmas Day 1969. While at An Thoi, I stood watches, inspected PCF boats and worked in the electronics shop. Then I was transferred back to the Boat

School in Saigon and was made a duty driver. Next came a transfer to Naval Air Facility Cam Ranh Bay.

I was assigned to the Electronics Repair Vans. Then my OMD supervisor got me reassigned to the OMO shop to do calendar checks on the Com 7<sup>th</sup> Fleet Detachment Charlie's C-1As and C-117s from our detachment at Tan Son--Nhut. We also did maintenance on the base's C-117s from our detachment at Tan Son Nhut as well as maintenance on any aircraft passing through the base. I left NAF Cam Ranh in October 1970 and was separated from the Navy at NATTC Memphis. TN. I earned the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Vietnam Service Medal and Combat Action Ribbon.

I married my wife Julie while on boot leave and we have been married 55 years now. We have one daughter.