

**MISSOURI STATE SOCIETY  
DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION**

*Proudly Honors*



**ROBERT WARREN MINOR**  
UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE  
SEAMAN SECOND CLASS (S-2)  
2 NOVEMBER 1943 – 30 JULY 1945



*as*

**PURPLE HEART PATRIOT  
FEBRUARY 2025**

*Honoring her First Cousin's Service and Sacrifice*

*Written by Cynthia Woller*

*Sponsored by: Olde Towne Fenton Chapter, NSDAR*

Born June 2, 1925  
to Ruth and Robert Minor  
Died July 30, 1945

*Honoring his service and Sacrifice*

*Sponsored by: Olde Towne Fenton Chapter, NSDAR*



Robert “Bobby” Warren Minor was born on June 2, 1925 in Jefferson County, Illinois, to Ruth Evelyn Edmison-Minor and Robert Hershall Minor. On November 5, 1926, Bobby was joined by a younger brother, William “Wendell” Minor.

On November 2, 1942, Bobby joined the Navy Reserves and was called to active duty. His brother, Wendell, also joined the Navy on May 30, 1944. Bobby ended up serving on the USS Indianapolis which carried the first operational atomic bomb to the Island of Tinian.

**From the official USS Indianapolis web site:** The world’s first operational atomic bomb was delivered by the Indianapolis, (CA-35) to the island of Tinian on July 26, 1945. The Indianapolis then reported to the Commander-in Chief Headquarters in Guam for further orders. She was directed to join the battleship USS Idaho (BB-42) at Leyte Gulf in the Philippines to prepare for the invasion of Japan. The

Indianapolis, unescorted, departed Guam on a course of 262 degrees making about 17 knots. At 14 minutes past midnight, on July 30, 1945, midway between Guam and Leyte Gulf, she was

hit by two torpedoes out the six fired by the I-58, a Japanese submarine. The first blew away the bow, the second struck near midship on the starboard side adjacent to a fuel tank and a powder magazine. The resulting explosion split the ship to the keel, knocking out all electric power. Within minutes she went down rapidly by the bow, rolling to starboard.

Of the 1,196 aboard, about 900 made it into the water in the twelve minutes before she sank. Few life rafts were released. Most survivors wore the standard kapok life jacket. Shark attacks began at sunrise of the first day and continued until the men were physically removed from the water, almost 5 days later. After 5 days of constant shark attacks, starvation and terrible thirst, suffering from exposure and their wounds, out of the 900 who made it into the water, only 317 remained alive.

It took two months for Bobby's mother, Ruth, to be notified that he was killed in action. It is unknown if he never made it off the ship, killed by sharks or the other hardships. His body was not recovered.

The members of the USS Indianapolis are heroes. The successful mission of delivering parts of the atomic bomb, changed the course of the war. They paid the ultimate sacrifice. Olde Towne Fenton is proud to honor Robert Warren Minor.

## CRUISER WHICH DELIVERED ATOM BOMB IS SUNK

**U. S. S. Indianapolis Torpedoed; 883 Lost, 315 Saved.**

*By Associated Press*

GUAM, Aug. 15. Two great explosions flashed out of her airframe bow at 12 minutes past midnight. Flames streaked through her passageways, searing the pile bodies of her crew into shapeless masses.

Within 15 minutes she plunged headfirst into the sea.

That was the end of the proud cruiser Indianapolis -- torpedoed 450 miles off Leyte July 30 with 883 dead and missing, after she had finished a record speed run from San Francisco to Guam to deliver the first atom bomb to the B-29s. She apparently fell prey to a Japanese submarine.

♥ A Mt. Vernon sailor, 20-year-old Robert Minor, son of Mrs. Ruth Minor of 1808 Perkins, was a member of the crew of the Indianapolis.



*Bobby and Wendell  
Minor*



*Bobby, Ruth, and  
Wendell Minor*