

# MISSOURI STATE SOCIETY DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION



*Proudly Honors*  
**PATRIOT OF THE MONTH**  
**MARCH 2025**



**DAVID McNUTT**  
**UNITED STATES NAVY**  
**JULY 1985 – 2020**  
**COMMANDER (O-5)**

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**William Boydston Chapter, NSDAR**



In 1985, I, David McNutt, worked as a cook at the airport terminal and applied for a ground crew position with Eastern Airlines. Although I didn't get the job, I noticed an ad in the paper for "grounds crew personnel wanted." It turned out to be a Navy recruitment opportunity. The recruiter described exotic travel destinations, but I wanted to stay in Kansas City, my home. He introduced me to the TAR Program (Training and Administration of Reserves), which allowed me to serve actively in the Navy while staying on land at reserve centers.

After boot camp in Orlando, Florida, and Mississippi, I often bragged about avoiding boats. This backfired when the sergeant in charge announced my orders first: I would serve as Seaman Recruit McNutt aboard a Minesweeper in Seattle, Washington. I was shocked.

In 1985, Debbie and I married and moved to Seattle. I began my Navy career aboard the Minesweeper, which was initially inactive. However, in 1987, as conflict in the Middle East intensified, our ship deployed to the Persian Gulf. Over the next few years, the crew rotated monthly in 25% increments. I completed two rotations and earned promotions to E4 and E5.

In the spring of 1989, Sergeant 1st Class Mark McGrath, my mentor, offered me a job in the Great Lakes region. I told him I wanted to attend college, and he helped me join the Enlisted Educational Advancement Program, which allowed active-duty service members to focus entirely on school for two years. I maximized those two years before receiving orders to Milwaukee.

In Milwaukee, while pursuing a bachelor's degree in Business Management, Debbie and I welcomed our first son in 1994. During this time, I earned a promotion to E6. I attempted multiple times to advance to E7 but was unsuccessful. In 1996, I pursued officer status independently after a recruiter failed to assist me. After several months of persistence, I received confirmation from Ms. Bunny in Washington, D.C., that I was accepted into Officer Academy. I delayed my start until November 9, 1996, to accommodate the birth of our daughter in July.



Officer boot camp proved challenging, but I graduated fifth in my class. In February 1997, my father re-enlisted in the Navy to give me my first officer salute. He presented me with a silver dollar, a treasured keepsake.



As a Supply Officer, I managed ship supplies and was stationed on a submarine in Italy. When a decommissioned sub needed its inventory system revamped, I tackled the problem head-on. By insisting on precise records, I impressed leadership and earned a land assignment in Jacksonville, Florida. This role proved too easy, so I seized an opportunity to serve on the USS Juno in Sasebo, Japan. Although I wasn't yet a lieutenant, the Commodore "frocked" me to the rank.

While aboard the USS Juno, I became a "Shellback" by crossing the equator en route to Australia. In 2003, a severe stroke brought me back to the U.S. I persuaded the admiral to let me continue serving without deployment for the remaining three years until retirement eligibility.

As a Lieutenant Commander, I returned to Japan to work on a small aircraft carrier transporting Marines across the Pacific. Later, Captain Canaday asked me to "volunteer" to return to the USS Juno and prepare it for decommissioning. My team and I worked tirelessly, earning the prestigious Logistics Management Excellence Award (Blue E) before the ship's decommissioning.

In 2006, I moved to Cambodia to assist with Community Relations. My unit helped rebuild a school, supplying desks, school materials, and electrical connections. My children even collected supplies from their schools in the U.S. to support this effort.

From 2010 to 2012, I studied advanced logistics in Korea, marking our 21st move with the Navy. I then joined a joint logistics unit in East St. Louis, managing inventory and equipment. As a Commander (O5), I completed a Sea Tour and served in Hawaii as Command Ashore, overseeing logistics for the entire Pacific region. Leading a team of 72 people, I managed a \$12 billion operation.



I retired after 33.5 years as an E6 and O5 Senior Officer. My change-of-command ceremony took place aboard the USS Missouri, a fitting end to a rewarding career.

Throughout my Navy journey, I traveled to 30 countries, and nearly every U.S. state, and helped countless people. I discovered that most people, regardless of background, share a common desire to care for their families, contribute to their communities, and live in peace. I cherish my time in the Navy and remain eager to mentor those considering enlistment.