

# MISSOURI STATE SOCIETY DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION



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

**WILLIAM ALBRECHT**  
**UNITED STATES NAVY**  
**MARCH 1968 – MARCH 1973**  
**UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE**  
**1973 – 1990**  
**LIEUTENANT (O-3)**

*Sponsored by:*  
**O'Fallon Chapter, NSDAR**



William 'Bill' Albrecht began his military career in the U.S. Navy in 1968. As he was finishing law school, he applied for a direct commission as a legal officer and was accepted. He was required to pass the state bar exam, which he did in Missouri and Illinois, and agreed to serve four and one-half years on active duty. He was commissioned as a lieutenant (junior grade) in the Judge Advocate General's Corps and reported for active duty in October 1968 at Naval Station Newport Rhode Island, where he completed Officer Indoctrination School, then Naval Justice School.

In early 1969 he reported for duty at Naval Station Great Lakes, north of Chicago, Illinois. He was assigned to the Midwest Regional Legal Service Office, which had approximately 15 military attorneys, plus support staff. Naval Station Great Lakes was a large military installation that included a Navy boot camp, various command schools, and a full-service Naval hospital. Bill served there until 1971, performing a wide range of legal work, which included prosecuting Navy enlisted men charged with crimes; defending Marine enlisted men charged with crimes; providing legal assistance and advice to servicemembers; representing injured Navy and Marine Corps personnel at disability hearings; and processing line-of-duty investigations for non-combat injuries to service members.

He was transferred to the Office of the Navy Judge Advocate General in Washington, D.C., in 1971, where he was assigned to the Civil Litigation Division. He was involved in the defense of civil lawsuits filed against the Department of the Navy in any federal

court in the United States, including liaison with the U.S. Department of Justice, whose attorneys represent the Navy in federal court. His work included a wide range of civil litigation, including servicemembers seeking discharge under the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, claiming they had become conscientious objectors after entering active duty, and female servicemembers seeking to prevent being discharged after becoming pregnant. At that time pregnant females were discharged from the military service. There was also a lawsuit by midshipmen at the U.S. Naval Academy, claiming the First Amendment prohibited mandatory attendance at religious services, which was required by Navy regulations at that time.



Other cases involved an effort to prevent the Navy from using an island that was part of Puerto Rico as a target range for Navy combat ships, and a civil suit by the commanding officer of a combat ship in Vietnam who was removed from command under circumstances reminiscent of the Humphrey Bogart movie, "The Caine Mutiny." Bill's work also included the recovery from third parties of Navy funds paid to civilian hospitals and healthcare providers for the care of injured servicemembers and responding to federal court subpoenas for Navy records.



In early 1973, with the Vietnam War winding down, Bill was released from active duty and returned home to St. Louis, Missouri, to practice family law as a civilian attorney for more than 50 years. He remained in the Naval Reserve at the Naval and Marine Corps Reserve Center in St. Louis for an additional twenty years until he retired. During his time in the service, Bill was awarded the Navy Commendation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, and the Vietnam Service Medal. Some of the best advice he received while on active duty was, "If you want someone to do something, don't call or write them, go see them. It is much harder for someone to tell you no, face-to-face."

Bill has been married to his wife, JoEllen, for 48 years. They are the parents of eight children, have 25 grandchildren, and two great-granddaughters.

The O'Fallon Chapter, NSDAR, Daughters are extremely proud to recognize and honor William Albrecht as Patriot of the Month for his dedication, patriotism, and service to our country.