

# MISSOURI STATE SOCIETY DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION



*Proudly Honors*  
**PATRIOT OF THE MONTH  
MAY 2026**

**DAVID WILLIAM RADCLIFF**  
UNITED STATES NAVY  
CHIEF FIRE CONTROLMAN  
(SURFACE WARFARE) (E-7)  
DECEMBER 26, 1974 – JUNE 1, 1998



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**Saint Charles Chapter, NSDAR**



David William Radcliff joined the U.S. Navy at the age of 21, which was the end of the Vietnam War Era. He served from December 26, 1974, to June 1, 1998. During his Naval Career, he attended many schools all over the world, and after 20 years of service, retired as a Firecontrolman Chief.

His first duty station was Cubi Point in the Philippines, where he served at VRC 50 as an Aviation Electrician. Another duty station was Whidbey Island, Washington, where he was with VAQ 130, which was with an air wing that took him to the Mediterranean on the Forrestal Aircraft Carrier.

His final duty station, where he had base housing with his wife, Jan, and three children, was Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, where they called home for thirteen years. While there, he served on the U.S.S. Worden, a guided missile cruiser, where he was a Fire Controlman. He also served with the Afloat Training Group, which he found most interesting, being able to see different chains of commands aboard ships of various types. His group assessed their ship performance and how areas that needed correction would be addressed before that particular ship could deploy.

The most exciting time in his career was when his ship was in the Persian Gulf War, "Operation Desert Storm." He sat in the Combat Information Center (CIC), which is the nerve center of the ship. His job was manning the missile engagement control console, which fired missiles when ordered. Dave participated in the P.I.P. (Personal Integrity Program), which monitors that each person maintains a high level of integrity and sobriety as they are sitting at a console with a launch missile trigger within their reach to be pressed if ordered to do so by the captain. An example of his security clearance, which required P.I.P., is when he had to have emergency surgery on a Saturday; the surgical team had to have security clearance for him to undergo anesthesia and have medical care. They could not use any civilian medical contract personnel and had to call in a military anesthetist with military security clearance to fulfill the team that day.

When asked for the best advice he has received, he smiled and said, "The Acronym for NAVY is Never Again Volunteer Yourself."

In conclusion, he said, "You do 20 years, you do it best with support from family. Navy support was good, bringing up a family for many reasons-social, learning independence, housing, team, and the medical support." His wife, Jan, is also a member of DAR and a past Patriot of the Month. They both served in the Navy in the war zone during the Persian Gulf War, although they never saw one another while there. They now live in St. Charles, Missouri. They have two sons, Doug Wallace and Josh Radcliff, and a daughter, Daenna Wallace Donovan, who is also a member of the Saint Charles Chapter, NSDAR, and three grandchildren, Jaya, Jane, and Harry.

Jan Radcliff of the Saint Charles Chapter, NSDAR, proudly nominates her husband, David William Radcliff, as Patriot of the Month.