

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution
Proudly Spotlights our February 2012
Patriot of the Month



Melvin D. Kissell

Sponsored by:

**Armstrong Chapter
Armstrong, Missouri**

Melvin D. Kissell graduated from Dubuque Senior High School, Dubuque, Iowa, in 1942 and attended the University of Dubuque for one semester. He enlisted in the Navy Aviation Program as a cadet on December 10, 1942. He was not called up until January 1943 when he went to Albert Lea, Minnesota for flight training. After flight training, he left for the University of Georgia in Athens for the Navy V5 Flight Program for further pilot training. As the need for the trained pilots was greatly reduced since the war was winding down, Melvin was given the option of being discharged or going into the regular Navy. He opted for a discharge.

Immediately after his discharge on July 14, 1944, Melvin enlisted into the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy at Ft. Hueneme, California. After graduation, he was part

of a crew that picked up a new ship loaded with supplies at Portland, Oregon. This ship was bound for the invasion of Japan, but on the way to Japan, the atomic bomb was dropped. They were diverted to the Philippines and sat in the bay for about six weeks. After leaving the Philippines, they stopped at Pearl Harbor for two weeks before going to San Diego, California. Melvin left San Diego by train for home where he was discharged from the Merchant Marines on November 26, 1945, as an Ensign. He was awarded the World War II Victory Medal.

Melvin returned to the University of Dubuque in March 1946 and graduated in December 1948 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Chemistry. He accepted employment at the John Deere Tractor Plant in Dubuque and worked there for six years. Leaving John Deere, Melvin began work for the E.I. DuPont Company, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He lived in many states during his twenty-nine year career with DuPont. He chose to retire in Missouri. After Melvin retired, he worked for six years as a consultant for the Orscheln Company.

Melvin married Jeanne Hogg of Thomson, Illinois in August 1947. They recently celebrated sixty four years of marriage. They have four children, five grandchildren and four step-grandchildren.

Melvin is a member of the United Methodist Church, American Legion, and a Chamber of Commerce Ambassador.