

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution  
Proudly Honors



Patriot of the Month

January 2019



Gary Joe Barker

United States Navy

Sponsored by:  
Virginia Daughters  
Chapter



Gary entered the United States Navy in November 1969 completing boot camp in San Diego, CA. He was assigned to USS *Putnam* (DD 757) as a torpedoman's mate. The *Putnam* was designated a Naval Reserve training ship. Its mission was anti-submarine warfare. With his second enlistment, Gary was assigned to the USS *Robert A. Owens* (DD 827) stationed in Galveston, TX. As part of the Atlantic Fleet, its mission was the same as that of the *Putnam*.

For his service, Gary received the Navy Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Medal and Sailor of the Month Award. Gary was honorably discharged from both the *Putnam* and *Robert A. Owens* when the ships were decommissioned.

After Gary's service he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture and retired after 35 years with the U.S. Department of Agriculture as a soil conservationist. He and his wife, Jan, have been married 49 years, have two children and nine grandchildren.

Virginia Daughters are very proud of Gary Joe Barker and honored to recognize him as Patriot of the Month for his dedicated patriotic service to his community and our great nation.