

## ALL GAVE SOME; SOME GAVE ALL

This week's veteran is Carl(Cork) Nicol.

Cork graduated from Assumption High School in 1954. He worked for DeBrun Road Improvement until January 5, 1956, when he enlisted in the Navy. After finishing his basic at Great Lakes Naval Training School, he completed aircraft mechanic school.

Cork was assigned to the *USS Essex* which was the lead of 24 *Essex*-type aircraft carriers that were built during WW II. Some other familiar names in that group were the *Yorktown*, *Lexington*, *Wasp*, and *Hornet*. All were named after previous carriers that had sunk in early WW II Naval battles in the Pacific. None of the *Essex*-style aircraft carriers were ever sunk even though they were damaged. The *Essex* took a kamikaze hit in November of 1944, killing 15 and wounding 44.

After the Korean War, the *Essex* spent most of her time in the Atlantic. Cork was aboard on her trip to the Mediterranean that left Mayport, FL, February 5, 1958. He was one of 3000 crew members and was assigned as a mechanic to the VA-105 (MAD DOGS) Squadron made up of AD-6 Skyraiders. The *Essex* was to take part in the Sixth Fleet exercises in the Mediterranean. After visiting many European cities such as Genoa, Venice, Naples, Rome, Capri, Cannes, Monaco, Paris, Palma, Barcelona, Valencia, and Athens, they thought they were headed home, but fate intervened. They made an emergency sortie to Lebanon to cover the Marine landing in Beirut in July, 1958, to help quell tensions that were threatening to topple the Lebanese government. Several aircraft from the VA-105 were damaged by ground fire. After that area was stabilized, they were sent on an unplanned trip through the Suez canal to Formosa to help with the Taiwan Strait Crisis that had developed between the People's Republic of China(PRC) and the Republic of China(ROC) over the shelling of the Quemoy Island group by the PRC. Finally on October 6, 1958, they started for home by the way of the Cape of Good Hope around the southern tip of Africa, arriving back at Mayport, FL, on November, 17, 1958. While in the Navy, Cork spent two years, four months, and 28 days at sea.

After being discharged from the Navy in December of 1959, Cork returned to Assumption serving in the Naval Reserve until 1962. He worked many years for P & C Ltd. Fertilizer Co. Cork died August 4, 2013. Trudy List was his companion for thirteen years. Cork's father, Keith, and brothers, Ronald and Richard, also serve in the Armed Forces

Thank you, Petty Officer(E-4) Carl L. Nicol, for what you did for us.