

ALL GAVE SOME; SOME GAVE ALL

This week's veteran is Jim Smallwood.

Jim worked at the Assumption Coop Elevator for more than a year after graduating from Assumption High School in 1951. October 1952 he enlisted in the Navy and was sent to Great Lakes Naval Training Station for basic. After arriving at Great Lakes, Jim was told that he would be shipped to San Diego, California, because Great Lakes was going to be closed. The four day train ride to San Diego was a great adventure for a Midwestern boy. After finishing an enjoyable eleven weeks in California, he was shipped to Louisiana to become a crew member of one of the mine laying/sweeper ships going to Korea. By the time they got to "S" in the alphabet, the crews had been filled, so Jim was sent to Pensacola Naval Air Station, Florida. While at Pensacola for a year, he worked security as a member of the Shore Patrol.

After completing electronics school at Great Lakes, Jim was assigned to the USS *Wisconsin* (BB - 64) as an Electronics Technician working in the communications center. His training that he received in the Navy led to a long civilian career in the electronics field.

The *Wisconsin*, whose crew Jim joined May 1954, was one of the four (*Iowa*, *Wisconsin*, *New Jersey*, and *Missouri*) Iowa class battleships built at the beginning of World War II. The *Wisconsin* was used for aircraft carrier escort and shore bombardment in WW II and Korea. She was reactivated from the "moth balled" fleet in 1986 and outfitted with missile systems. During Desert Storm, she fired Tomahawk missiles into Iraq and bombarded Iraqi gun positions in Kuwait.

During Jim's time, 1954 - 1956, on the *Wisconsin*, she was used for midshipmen cruises, practice maneuvers, and humanitarian causes. While operated off the Virginia Capes in May 1956, the *Wisconsin* sustained heavy damage to her bow when she collided with the destroyer *Eaton* in heavy fog. The *Wisconsin* was repaired in fourteen days by using the bow of the unfinished battleship *Kentucky*.

After being discharge from the Navy in June 1956, Jim and his wife, the former Barbara French of Pensacola, Florida, returned to Assumption. He worked for Speakman Electronics, Taylorville, and Bayless TV in Decatur before being hired by Teledyne Corporation to manage service centers. He managed centers in Atlanta, Chicago, and Indianapolis before Teledyne sold all their service centers. Jim and his former boss bought the center in Norfolk, Virginia, where he remained as manager until 1996 when he sold the business and returned to this area locating in Findlay.

Jim reenlisted in the Naval Reserves in 1964. When he retired from the Navy, he had completed twenty years of active and reserve duty.

Jim and Barbara adopted their son, Joe, from Mexico in 1958. Joe recently completed thirty years of active and reserve duty in the Navy.

Thank you, ET 1 James Richard Smallwood, for what you gave for us.