

ALL GAVE SOME; SOME GAVE ALL

This week's veteran is Larry Cutler.

Larry Thomas Cuter was born July 7, 1947, in Moweaqua, the son of Roy Thomas "Dick" Cutler and Virginia (Burkart) Cutler. He graduated from Assumption High School in 1966. In the fall of 1966, he enrolled in Sam's Technical Institute in Indianapolis, IN, and received an Associate Degree in Electronics in the spring of 1968. After graduation, he worked for Texas Instruments in Dallas, TX, working on the F-111 radar systems.

While in Texas, Larry found out that he was going to be drafted. Wanting to continue working in electronics, he and a friend from Illiopolis decided to join the Navy on the "Buddy Plan". After joining the Navy, Larry found out that although he had been working in the electronics field, he was color-blind. His friend went into electronics, but Larry, because of being color-blind and having a high score in engineering, was placed in BT(Boiler Technician) school at Naval Station Great Lakes. He graduated in September of 1969 and was sent to Norfolk, VA, where he reported on board the *USS Josephus Daniels-DLG 27* (nickname, *Jay Dee*, a guided missile frigate later reclassified as a cruiser). In the old days, when television stations signed off at midnight, the *Jay Dee* was the ship that sailed across the screen as the *Star Spangled Banner* was played.

Larry's first cruise aboard the *Jay Dee* was to Vietnam where the ship became part of Westpac. They spent most of their time with the aircraft carrier, *USS America*. The *Jay Dee* was the flagship of the group with the Admiral onboard. Places they visited during their cruise were: Panama; Pearl harbor; Guam; Subic Bay, Philippines; Danang; Singapore; Hong Kong; Kobe and Sasebo, Japan; Sydney, Australia; Auckland, New Zealand; and Pago Pago. They left Norfolk on February 25, 1970, and returned on November 3, 1970.

The next cruise for the *Jay Dee* was to the Mediterranean Sea. Departing Norfolk on July 6, 1971, they had ports of call in Spain, Italy, Greece, Crete, France. Some of the famous cities that Larry got to visit were Barcelona, Naples, Athens, and Cannes. The *Jay Dee* returned to Norfolk on December 17, 1971.

Larry was discharged from the Navy at Norfolk in December of 1972. Early in 1973, he went to work for the Illinois Bearing Company in Decatur. He married Lynette(Workman) Reid on January 11, 1974. They moved to rural Moweaqua to start farming in the spring of 1974. They have two children, Shari (Craig) Bangert of Sherman, IL, and Shannon (Terri Sue) Cutler of Moweaqua, and five grandchildren: Logan and Landon Bangert; Alexis, Alayna, and Addison Cutler. Larry and Lynette have retired from farming and have plans to travel and enjoy time with family and friends

Thank you, Boilerman Third Class Petty Officer Larry Thomas Cutler, for what you gave for us.