

All Gave Some; Some Gave All

This week's veteran is Raymond Edward Ohl., W.S. Navy Seaman 1st Class.

There was a little boy who wanted to join the Navy and be a sailor. He was born July 23, 1928 to William and Loretta Ohl, in Parkersburg, West Virginia. His name was Raymond Edward Ohl. He moved to Moweaqua, IL when he was 4 years old, and to Assumption when he was a junior in high school. World War II was raging. As soon as he turned 18 years old, on July 23, 1946, he enlisted in the Navy. He was sent to Great Lakes, IL, along with his buddy Pete Zucco. Of course when basic training was done they were separated. Pete was sent to the East coast and Ray to San Diego, California. He spent his time on 3 ships, the last being the Robert H. Smith, a destroyer. He simply loved Navy life. Ships went out to Alcatraz Prison regularly to guard the maximum security prison. The ship went way beyond Hawaii on the Pacific Ocean to check for trouble, and up and down the coast of Alaska. His unit was all set to go to Tokyo, Japan when the atom bomb was dropped and ended the war with Japan.

He had time to pitch triple A softball for 3 teams, on the West coast, and be on the deep diving team. □ For his valiant efforts aboard the destroyer, he was awarded the World War II victory medal, Good Conduct, Asiatic Pacific, American Theatre, and Korean medals. He was discharged on July 23, 1950 at San Diego, California.

He married Eulalia (Jean) DuBeck on Oct. 14, 1950 at St. Mary's Catholic Church.

To this union was born 7 children, Kenneth (Karen) Ohl, Nancy (Gary) Nave, Mary Hebert, Becky Fringer, Lisa (Bill) Blades, Angela Ohl-Marsters, Teresa (Ed) Nelson; 14 grandchildren, 17 great grandchildren, and 2 great-great grandchildren.

Despite all the hard work on the destroyer and prowling the high seas, this was really a dream come true for Ray.

His granddaughter had him a replica of his ship made at the Naval Center in California.

Thank you, 1st Class Seaman Raymond Edward Ohl, for what you gave for us. Thank you, Jean Ohl, for this story about your husband.

ATTENTION: The Veterans Memorial dedication will be May 25 at 2 PM following the VFW Auxiliary chicken dinner from 11 AM to 1 PM.