

# COMRADE OF THE QUARTER



## DALLAS McLEOD HUDSON

I was born in Mercy Hospital here in Charlotte, April 21<sup>st</sup>, 1933. I have a younger brother Joe who lives in Charlotte, and is also a member of 9488, and a sister, Nancy who lives in Mint Hill. I also had a step-brother William Carl Deese who was killed at Okinawa aboard the USS Obrien 725, on March 27th 1945. The victim of a kamikaze attack. My father, Thomas, and my mother Annie are both deceased.

I married my wife Kathleen October 27<sup>th</sup>, 1962. We have three great children, Mary Elizabeth, Joseph, and Kathleen Ann. The girls live here in Charlotte, and Joseph has lived in Raleigh for the past 16 years. Our children have given us three wonderful grandchildren, Maya Grace, Patrick Joseph, and Sean Michael.

I enlisted in the Navy on August 29<sup>th</sup>, 1950, at the age of 17. At that time a parent's signature of permission was required for enlistment at that age. I had a great deal of difficulty getting my dad out of Kofinas Pub on West Trade St. on the day I enlisted. The pub was across the street from the recruiting office which was in the Post Office building on West Trade Street. I was sworn into the Navy on August 29th in Raleigh. Then on to Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Illinois for boot camp. Upon graduating I was assigned to the Naval Air Station Norfolk Virginia, Fleet Aircraft Service Squadron 102, Breezy Point. It was here I was given the USAFI GED and graduated. I was then given the opportunity to attend Aviation Machinist Class A school at NATTC Millington Tennessee, which is adjacent to Naval Air Station Memphis Tennessee. Upon graduation from this school I was transferred to the Naval Air Station, Jacksonville, Florida where I was assigned to the aircraft overhaul-repair department. I remained there until the end of my first enlistment and was discharged, but after twenty-eight days I reenlisted and was sent to Fighter Squadron 41 Naval Air Station, Oceana Virginia VF (fighter aircraft) 41, with the "Black Ace's". They were the first tailhook squadron on the east coast with Nuclear Weapon Delivery capabilities. While in VF 41 I served on two aircraft carriers, the USS Bennington, which blew up on May 26<sup>th</sup>, 1954 resulting in the deaths of 103 crew members, including 7 from the VF 41. In September 1954 we were assigned to the USS Randolph. While out qualifying pilots in September 1954 the Randolph steered in hurricane Edna, which we rode out for fourteen hours.





**This damaged the ship to the extent it delayed deployment to the Mediterranean until November 1954. Upon returning from the cruise I remained at Oceana until January 1956. I was then accepted into Aviation Machinist Mate School, Class B. This was a 26 week school and upon graduation I was transferred to the Naval Air Station Memphis. I remained there until August 1958 when I received orders to Utility Squadron 10, Naval Air Station at Guantanamo Bay Cuba. I served there until the end of January 1960. I decided to leave the Navy after having served nine years, four months, and five days of service.**

**I was discharged on February 1st 1960 at the Brooklyn Navy Receiving Station. Upon returning to Charlotte I went to work for the US Postal Service as a letter carrier for the next 28 years. I retired from the Postal Service in April 1988. I then accepted a position with Royal Insurance Company in September 1988, and retired from there in August 2000.**

**I am a Life Member of VFW Post 9488 and have served as Judge Advocate for the past two years. I also volunteer services at the many events held at the Post, and try to help out anywhere I can. I know of no finer VFW Post. We have great people here and do all in our powers to aid the veterans, our members, and the people in our community.**

**Awarded Service Medals:**

**Career Service Medals:**

- **National Defense Service Medal**
- **Good Conduct Medal**
- **Navy Occupation Medal. (The one I am most proud of, as it is the one that made me eligible to for membership in the VFW)**

