

Ames recognized for WWII military service

April 20, 2021



Bob Ames Jr., a well known Crescent City resident, was recently recognized and honored for his military service during WWII by the Del Norte Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution. April 17 found the Chapter members visiting the Ames' country residence, with congratulations and thanks to Ames for his Naval service in WWII and the Korean Conflict. Ames graduated Del Norte High School and enlisted in the Navy in the fall of 1943. He was 17 years old and served until his honorable discharge in May 1946.

Del Norte Chapter Regent Cori Higgins, and Program Chairman Marlene Young presented Bob a plaque, with a certificate of appreciation from Del Norte Chapter DAR, inset with a photo of the 17-year-old sailor, and other awards and memorabilia he had earned during his time in the Navy. His wife, Mary Jean, was presented a beautiful spring bouquet.

Upon enlistment in the Navy, Ames was sent to North Dakota to electrician training, after which he served as electrician aboard a Naval vessel in the South Pacific theater through the duration of the war. Bob was also a Navy diver and was employed in that capacity during his years of enlistment.

During his training time in North Dakota, he met his future wife, Mary Jean. After the war was over and he was back in civilian life, Bob went back to North Dakota to “visit Mary Jean’s mother,” which of course, was a good excuse to get back to Mary Jean and ask for her hand in marriage. They did marry and are still happily married 73 years later. By the end of the war, with a brief respite for married life during which time they had two children. Bob, a Naval Reserve member, was called to serve in the Korean Conflict in 1950 and served through spring of 1952. Once again, he served as an electrician aboard an oil tanker.

After Bob’s military service in WWII and Korea, Bob and Mary Jean settled in Crescent City where they raised their four children, Carolyn, Guy, Brad and Kathy. The Ames’ are a close-knit family unit, business owners, involved in community at all levels, also enjoying singing, dancing and the arts. Bob has stayed closely involved with the local Veterans’ groups and has acted as advocate and supporter of veterans’ causes throughout the years. Bob was special speaker and first to raise the flag at Rocky Peterson Flag Memorial at Peterson Park in Crescent City. The Flag Memorial to Rocky was a project of the Del Norte Chapter DAR.

The presentation of appreciation was enjoyed by all who attended with questions and discussions with Bob and Mary Jean about their early life in Del Norte County. Discussion and sharing about the WWII experience was the highlight of the day.

For information about DAR, contact Cori Higgins, Regent, at 954-7103.