

PATRICK E. McCLANAHAN

Pat McClanahan was born on August 13, 1950 at the Whitlatch Clinic in Milan, Indiana to Margaret Belle (Hays) and Harold R. “Shorty” McClanahan. Margaret served as an Ensign in the United States Navy and was from Waco, TX. Shorty served as a Flight Officer and was a Prisoner of War (POW) during World War II. He grew up in Moores Hill, Indiana. Pat had two brothers: Michael R. and Kelly J. McClanahan. A younger sister, Kathy Lynn, passed away shortly after birth in 1963.

Pat Attended grade school in Moores Hill and graduated from Moores Hill High School in 1968 and attended Indiana State University.

Pat entered the U.S. Navy on August 19, 1969 and took basic training at Glenview Naval Air Station, Glenview, Illinois. Pat served two tours in Vietnam aboard the USS Kitty Hawk CVA-63 and USS Constellation CV-64 attached with Squadron VAQ-133. His rank was AZ4. Pat was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal and the Meritorious Unit Commendation Ribbon. He was discharged on August 21, 1971.

Pat had the privilege of flying off, actually “shot off” the USS Constellation in a KA3B Jet aircraft. The launching lasted about 2.5 seconds, traveling approximately 220 feet per second or 180 MPH. This was accomplished by a catapult system and jet propulsion heading into the wind. The landing was just as exciting, hopeful that one of the 4 arresting cables caught us coming in at full speed and coming to an abrupt halt.

Pat married his high school sweetheart (Sandra Tuttle) from Milan, Indiana before leaving on active duty and missed their first and second wedding anniversaries due to his Vietnam service. They were married on March 8, 1969 and recently celebrated 53 years of love and happiness. Pat says she always has been and always will be “My Sweetheart”.

Pat and Sandra have two children: daughter, Staci Denise and son, Shawn Patrick. There are two grandsons: Alex and Cade P. and a granddaughter, Kylie Grace. Also, granddaughters/nieces (triplets): Lindsey, Kaitlyn and Nicole Tuttle.

Great grandchildren: Asher, Arabella, Aura and Axel.

Pat worked at a few minor jobs after high school. His major career was in the medical field for 25 years as a Registered Diagnostic Cardiac Sonographer (RDCS). He worked at the Indiana University Medical Center and Krannert Institute of Cardiology in Indianapolis and finished his career establishing an accredited Echo Laboratory at Margaret Mary Health in Batesville in 2015.

Pat is a member of the Moores Hill American Legion Post 209, Life Member of the Southeastern Indiana Vietnam Veterans of America, Larry D. Fogle Chapter 71, where he serves as a Vice Commander, Commander of the Southeastern Indiana Honor Guard and a Mentor in Judge Cleary’s Veterans’ court in Lawrenceburg. Pat is also a vital part of the Honor Guard ceremony where he is the Chaplain and reads a prayer along with what each fold represents when the burial flag is folded after removal from the casket. Pat is a very active member of the Aurora First Baptist Church and a Stephen Leaders Minister. He also serves as a board member of the Forest Hill Cemetery in Moores Hill. He also helped with the project for the Huey Helicopter at Lesko Park.

Pat's family has a very rich military history and he is proud of his service in the U.S. Navy with brother, Mike. His dad and uncle were both POW's. Pat was honored as a Hometown Hero by the Cincinnati Reds, with brother Mike, and presented with a Quilt of Valor by the Rivertown Quilters. He has been on a trip to Washington, DC with 50 veterans from Southeastern Indiana too.

Pat is a very patriotic man, great family and church man and is dedicated to honoring our American Veterans. He lives by the words of God-Duty-Honor-Country.