

J.C. LEWIS

J.C. Lewis was born on June 1, 1927 in Hazard, Kentucky to Minta & Samuel Lewis. He had one brother, Elmer, and four sisters, Juanita, Loretta, Lois and Opal.

He attended Lenniger Grade School near Weisburg, Indiana and graduated from Aurora High School in 1944.

He entered the United States Navy on January 11, 1945 and took Boot Camp at Great Lakes, Illinois. He proudly served aboard the USS Sterett, DD-407 in the South and Central Pacific Ocean.

On April 9, 1945, at the height of the Japanese Kamikazee attacks, the Sterett was on radar pickett duty and was swarmed with 5 attacking Kamikazee planes. The Sterett and her crew nearly downed all 5, but a badly damaged and bettered Kamikazee plane managed to slam into Sterett's starboard side at the waterline, almost directly under J.C.'s battle station just behind the bridge, throwing him violently across the deck. Amazingly, no one was killed in the explosion that day. The USS Sterett earned a Presidential Unit Citation for extraordinary heroism in action, 13 battle stars, as well as the Philippine Republic Presidential Unit Citation during her service to our country.

He was discharged on April 8, 1948. He was awarded the World War II Victory Medal, Navy Good Conduct Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Medal, American Campaign Medal, Philippine Liberation Medal, Presidential Unit Citation, Philippine Republic Unit Citation and the Ruptured Duck Honorable Discharge.

His wife, Dorothy (Dottie) is at the Shady Nook Care Center. She worked as a nurse. They have one son, Sam.

J.C. was self employed and was an expert at rebuilding transmissions on Dixie Highway in Hamilton, Ohio.

He is a member of the Aurora American Legion Post 231 and Masonic Lodge F&AM 67 in Oxford, Ohio.

J. C. Lewis is a proud member of America's Greatest Generation.
He was aboard the USS Sterett when it was decommissioned in 1948
at the 33rd Street Pier in New York City.
Today, he resides at Mt. Sinai, Indiana and still rides his motorcycle.