

James Arlie Swafford

James (Jim) Swafford was born in Anniston, Alabama on October 5, 1939. Jim grew up in Anniston and later in Rockford, Illinois where he graduated from Washington High School.



Jim entered the United States Navy in April 1957 and took basic training at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center near Chicago, Illinois. After completing basic training, he was assigned to the Seabees in 1958. Jim's Naval training included Heavy Equipment Operator and Demolition and Mine Warfare at Ft. Belvoir, Virginia. His station assignments included Naval Auxiliary Air Station, Kingsville, Texas; Naval Air Station, Barbers Point, Hawaii; Naval Station, Argentia, Newfoundland; Antarctic Support Activity, Davisville, Rhode Island; Antarctic Wintering-Over Party, Mobile Construction Battalion FIVE, Naval Air Facility, Naha, Okinawa; and Naval Ordnance Test Unit, Patrick Air Force Base, Florida.

During his years of service with the U.S. Navy, Jim was awarded the Combat Action Ribbon, Meritorious Unit Commendation Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal (4 awards), National Defense Service Medal, Antarctic Service Medal with Wintering-Over Clasp, Vietnam Service Medal, Army Unit Commendation Ribbon, Fleet Marine Force Combat Operations Insignia, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Marksmanship Ribbon, and a Republic of Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation.

Jim retired from the Navy in June 1977 after 21 years of dedicated service to his country, as a Senior Equipment Operator (E01). After retiring from the Navy, Jim was employed at U.S. Brass and retired from there in 2000.

Jim joined The American Legion in December 2006 and is currently serving as the Sergeant-at-Arms. Mr. Swafford currently resides with his wife Judith (Judy) in Duncanville, Texas. Jim and Judy were married in August 1964 and have two daughters, Nancy and Linda and one son, James.