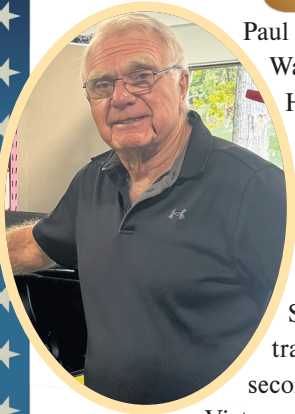


VETERAN OF THE MONTH

November 2024

VFW Post 12135 - Paul Nichols Bontrop



Paul Nichols Bontrop (Nick) was born in 1941 in Walla Walla, Washington. His father served in the Navy in WWII. He graduated from Walla Walla High School 1959 and went to college at Eastern Washington University. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Marketing in 1963 and received his draft notice.

Nick was accepted into the Navy Officer Candidate School (OCS) Program and was commissioned as a Surface Warfare Officer. His first tour was on a troop transport, landing marines in Vietnam. During Nick's second tour, he was the officer in charge of a patrol boat in Vietnam. He also served a third tour, which was on a destroyer conducting naval gunfire support off the coast of Vietnam. After his third tour, he decided to stay in the Navy. Throughout his career, he conducted five (5) deployments to the Western Pacific and the Mediterranean. He also commanded a destroyer and two major shore stations. While on active duty, he earned his Master's degree at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA and attended the Naval War College.

Nick's awards and decorations include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal,

Legion of Merit (2), Navy Meritorious Service Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Achievement Medal (2), and a Vietnam Campaign Medal (3 service stars).

After retirement as a Navy Captain (O6) in 1994, Nick turned the page and got his commercial driver's license (CDL) and drove trucks part-time, delivering cement to accounts in the Pacific Northwest, San Juan Islands, and British Columbia. During this time, he also rode motorcycles across the beautiful United States 11 times, to include trips to Canada, Alaska, and Baja, visiting family and friends along the way.

In 2022, Nick and his wife, Farol, made a great move from the state of Washington to Tellico Village (TV). Nick and Farol were married in Hawaii and have a blended family with five children, six grandchildren, and two great grandchildren. They love it here in TV. Nick also joined the Tellico Village Veteran of Foreign Wars (VFW), the local pickleball club, car club, and enjoys playing golf. Nick says his life has been both challenging and rewarding, and it has been a great privilege serving with the finest.

The Tellico Village VFW Post #12135 General meeting is held at 7:00 p.m. in the Tellico Village Yacht Club every third Wednesday of the month. Further information can be found on the Post website at: <https://www.tvvfw.org/>.