

**SOTC – OPERATION BARNABAS**  
**Veteran of the Month Prayer Card**  
**November 2022**  
**Peter Almasy**



**US Navy 1965 - 1969**

Peter was born in Houdan, France. His grandfather was instrumental in his attending kindergarten through third grade on the American Army base at Giessen, Germany. In 1954, Peter and his mother settled in the Bronx, NY.

In 1965 he joined the Navy. After boot camp at Great Lakes Naval Training Center, Chicago, IL, Peter attended A and C school in New Jersey to become a weatherman.

He served his entire career aboard the USS Forrestal CVA-59 during the Vietnam war.

On July 29, 1967, deployed in the Gulf of Tonkin and during flight deck operations, fire broke out in the stern of the ship. A Zuni rocket accidentally misfired and hit the fuel tank of a parked A4 Skyhawk. Devastating flight deck fires, with multiple explosions, almost sank the carrier. Peter and eight other sailors hosed down parked aircraft in the hangar bay; by the time fires were extinguished, 134 sailors had died and 161 were injured.

Honorably discharged as a Petty Officer 2<sup>nd</sup> Class in 1969, Peter earned a college degree in Business Administration and Accounting and served for 38 years in various financial positions, culminating in Sr. Vice President of Suffolk County National Bank in New York.

He retired in 2007.

Peter and Karla have been married 55 years. They have been blessed with two children and three grandchildren.