

SOTC – OPERATION BARNABAS

Veteran of the Month Prayer Card

July 2024

Ray Sauter



US NAVY: 1965 - 1973

Ray grew up in Astoria, NY. When he was 17, he enlisted in the Navy Reserve at Floyd Bennett Airfield in Brooklyn, NY.

Ray attended Boot Camp at Great Lakes Naval Station, Chicago, and from there he went to Millington, TN, for "A" School. He then took a transport out of Travis Air Force Base in San Francisco to the Philippines. From the Philippines he was aboard a Navy Oiler, a ship that fueled ships off the coast of Vietnam. He was high lined in a bosun chair from the oiler to the USS Oriskany CVA 34. There he joined up with his

Fighter Squadron 111, which was also known as Sundowners, in the Gulf of Tonkin - Vietnam. In October 1966 there was a fire on the USS Oriskany, due to flares that were ignited in a flare locker. Significant damage was done to the ship. Forty-four sailors were killed on board the ship. Ray worked on the Fire Control Systems on the F-8 Crusader Air Craft. Ray was discharged from the Navy in 1973 with the Rank of E4.

After serving in the military, he worked for Verizon as an Outside Plant Technician, in Saratoga Springs, NY. He climbed a lot of poles repairing telephone lines. He met Carol, his future wife, while they both worked for Verizon.

He and Carol have been married for 38 years. They have been blessed with two children and one grandchild. Ray enjoys Golfing, Hunting, Fishing, and playing cards.