

**The Tipton County Veterans Council and the Tipton County Museum,
Veterans Memorial and Nature Center**



Veteran of the Month for October 2016

Warren Richard Willers

Warren Richard “Rick” Willers was born on November 12, 1948, in Pensacola, Florida. After his 1966 graduation from Demopolis High School in Alabama, he attended Livingston College (now the University of West Alabama). During his junior year in 1969, he was drafted into the U.S. Army. After Artillery Ballistic Meteorology School in Fort Sill, Oklahoma, he was off to South Vietnam, where he served for nine months with the 1st Battalion, 30th Artillery. Upon discharge, he served in the Alabama National Guard, then joined the U.S. Navy in 1973. After training as an Aviation Electronics Technician, his duty stations included the USS John F. Kennedy (CV-67), the USS America (CV-66), and the USS Nassau (LHA-4). He also served as an Electronics Instructor in various places, including Virginia Beach, Virginia, and Millington, Tennessee. While on board the USS Nassau, he spent eight months and three days off the coast of Kuwait during the first Gulf War. In addition to earning his Air Crew Wings, he was also awarded the Bronze Star Medal, Air Medal, Army Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster, Meritorious Unit Commendation, Navy Expeditionary Medal (two awards), National Defense Service Medal (two awards), Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Southwest Asia Campaign Medal with two bronze stars, Kuwait Liberation Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, Navy Good Conduct Medal (four awards), Navy “E” Ribbon, Combat Action Ribbon, and Sea Service Deployment Ribbon (three awards).

After his retirement from the Navy in 1993, he and his late wife Patricia moved to Tipton County. He worked in the private sector for three years before accepting a civilian position on board Naval Support Activity Mid-South in Millington to help close down antiquated facilities. Once that was completed, he worked at Northside Laundry for six years. He is a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and attends church at First United Methodist Church in Millington. Rick was nominated for Veteran of the Month by his friend Joyce Geneva Travis.