

Information obtained August 16, 2023

Loren Wayne Hudson, born June of 1938, is a Navy Veteran of 21 years. He enlisted from 1955-1976. He and his wife, Adeline, live in Spencerville, Oklahoma.

Hudson served on the USS Kitty Hawk, based out of San Diego, and spending time in many locations, including the Philippines; Vietnam; Japan; and even going to Cape Horn. He also served at Adak, Alaska; Patuxent, Maryland; and Jacksonville, Florida. He was on the Search and Rescue team.

“I enlisted in the Navy because I couldn’t find a job locally and I was starving,” said Hudson. It was a good decision, providing more than two decades of life with the military. Before being discharged as a Petty Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Class E-6, Hudson’s job included searches for lost planes, lost ships and lost people. “We also trained other people on appropriate search and rescue methods.”

Hudson remember a particularly difficult mission out of Alaska when they spent almost 15 hours in the air while searching.

His wife, Adeline, said that Hudson had made a positive change in the training programs while serving in California. Films were shown to the troops in an effort to educate them about different cultures and people. Hudson made a complaint that the only films featuring Native Americans showed “drunk Indians.” Adeline said, “Wayne was called in and asked about the complaint. He suggested the head of Indian Programs at San Diego State begin having Native Americans come and speak to classes, so that a true concept of Native life could be shared.” Hudson said the program was effective and still continues.

After discharge, Hudson went to college. He became an auto mechanic for Civil Service. In 1980, he and Adeline moved back to Oklahoma and his employment was at Choctaw Housing as Comprehensive Grant Coordinator and Home Inspector.

Hudson speaks Choctaw language fluently. His parents were Henry and Flora Johnson Hudson of Hugo.