

Commander Ed Gaskell ('47), USNR (ret)



I was born on March 22, 1928 in Portchester, New York.

My mother died in 1932, and my father took me to France where his career was as a United States Lines executive. I lived in Paris, then Epouville, Normandy, attending French schools until 1940, when I was brought back to New York just after the fall of France, and before the entry of the United States in World War II.

I finished American grade school in Portland, Oregon, and then returned to NY to attend the Lycée Français de New York. At the completion of "seconde" I received a letter of High School Equivalency from the Lycée, allowing me to enter Kings Point., the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy.

United States Merchant Marine Academy



I attended Kings Point from 1946 to 1950 and graduated in June 1950 with an Ensign Commission in the Naval Reserve and the US Maritime Service, and a Third Mate's license - all oceans from the US Coast Guard.

I sailed 4 years as a deck offer on cargo ships with the United States Lines, to Europe, Korea and Australia.

I entered active duty with the Navy on January 1956 in order to fulfill my military obligation. I was assigned to the USS Rankin - AKA 103, home-ported in Norfolk, Virginia. I served on the Rankin two years as Navigator, while my new wife lived in an apartment in Norfolk.

The ship participated in several amphibious landing exercises on the Carolina coast and in the Caribbean, notably serving as one of the “background” ships for the filming of the movie *Away All Boats*, starring Jeff Chandler.



When I started civilian life in 1956 as a technical writer and training film producer for Union Carbide Corporation, I was recruited by the Naval Reserve Intelligence Program, and served for 30 years rising to the rank of Commander. My notable active duty was Executive Officer of the Naval Intelligence Debriefing team when our prisoners were returned from North Vietnam. The remaining part of my civilian career was with the Equitable Life Assurance Society, as a film producer first, then as Manager of Local Advertising.



While at Equitable I studied for and obtained two certifications: Chartered Life Underwriter and Chartered Financial Consultant, which allowed me to be an independent financial consultant after I retired from Equitable.

I retired from the Navy in 1987.

I moved to Lake Sherwood Village in 2014, where I teach French, act as the LSV Color Guard, and am active in many areas, including the Baton Rouge Orchid Society, and the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA).

