



# Andrew Hiram Kiddie

AUG 13, 1930 - NOV 29, 2023



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## I N MY OWN WORDS

My Life --- Where to start?

I was born a very long time ago, August 13th, 1930, in a very small town in Colorado. The town was so small (pop 640) that there was only one major intersection. There was talk going around about maybe installing a traffic signal but the City Council couldn't decide on the colors.

I was the fourth of six children, four boys and two girls. This was a great time to be a kid if you didn't mind 20 below winters. We skied and skated all winter, then spent the short summer months swimming and playing on the Yampa River.

When I was 13 years old, we moved to Denver. I dropped out of school that year and went to work at various jobs, from trimming trees to working at a print shop. Upon turning 17, I tried to join the Navy but Mom wouldn't sign off on it. Upon my "emancipation" the following year, I joined up and was shipped off to San Diego for Boot Camp. Both of my older brothers were in the Navy during WW2 so I thought that was the place for me as well. My younger brother followed six years later.

After a short stay at Naval Amphibious Base, Coronado, I volunteered for aviation duty and was sent to USS Boxer CV21, which was undergoing overhaul at Hunters Point shipyard in San Francisco. I served on Boxer for about three years, including two deployments to Korea. Then while on Christmas leave at home in Denver, I had an auto accident and ended up in the Naval Hospital at Great Lakes, Illinois. Upon discharge, I was sent to US Sicily CVE 118. Another three-year tour. After a couple more trips to Korea, the ship was decommissioned in 1954 and I had orders to Naval Air Material Center, Philadelphia. During this time the steam-powered catapult was being



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installed on various carriers and I headed up one of the teams assigned to do the test firings after installation. I was promoted to Chief Petty Officer and also met a young lady named Phyllis Shapiro. We wed in 1956 and were divorced in 1976. The union produced three children; Mark, Jennifer and Rebecca, who I love beyond description and will always be extremely proud of!

Back to the West Coast and sea duty --- USS Essex CV9, USS Midway CVA41. Back to shore duty, Fleet Training Center, San Diego, instructor for Shipboard Fire Fighting. Advanced to Senior Chief.

Headed to sea once again. USS Bon Homme Richard CVA31. After three years and several trips to Vietnam, I received orders to "Comnavairpac" -- that's Commander Naval Air Pacific to all you landlubbers -- at North Island Naval Air Station, San Diego. While there (two years), I was selected for Master Chief.

Once again back to sea, last time, US Ticonderoga CVA14. One year later (1969) I retired from the Navy and never looked back!

Went to work in a management position for Thrifty Drug Stores, lasted four years then decided retail wasn't my thing. Got into construction and after several years and several different companies obtained my contractor's license and set out to remake the world!! We specialized in financial institutions because, as Willie Sutton famously said when asked why he robbed banks, "Because that's where the money is."

I married Vernita Worthington in 1977 and her children, Daun, Roger, Rodney and Anita, became a very large part of my life. We have nine grandchildren and twelve great grandkids, one of the few perks of old age.

Retired for good in 1991. My favorite thing about retirement, I don't have a single thing to do today and I don't have to start that till noon, (except on Thursday, house cleaning day).

I belong to a variety of organizations including ABMA (Aviation Boatswains Mates Association), VFW, American Legion and Fleet Reserve Association and,



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of course, associations related to all the ships on which I served. I enjoy attending reunions (as long as they're close to home) and talking "Navy" with old shipmates and making new friends.



# Tribute Wall

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**Rebecca Loibl** posted:

My dad, Andrew Kiddie was THE smartest man I ever knew, or probably ever will know. He was witty, and sharp as a tack. Rarely could you bring up a subject that he didn't know about. An avid reader, who at the age of 68 got a business degree. When I asked him why at 68 did he go to school, he said " I had money on my GI bill" . Such a character, anyone who met him was better for the experience. I love you and miss you dad. Thanks for everything I learned from you.

March 18 at 8:04 AM



**Rebecca Ellen Loibl** July 30 at 9:19 AM

As we approach what was your birthday, I'm reminded by a million little things just how much I miss you. I pray that you are with Vernita and all the people and animals that you loved over the years. Thank you for everything I learned from you. I love you dad.



**Beverly Dombrowski Benner** shared 2 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.



I'm the oldest daughter to the youngest of the two sisters mentioned in this story. My mother, Shirley Jean (Kiddie) Dombrowski was born 3 years after my Uncle Andy on July 21, 1933. Mom spoke highly of her older brother and in 1994, he traveled from San Diego to Las Vegas to witness my marriage to Mark Benner. A memory I will cherish forever. Condolences to all of Uncle Andy's children and my Aunt Emily Dean, the oldest sister mentioned above. Give mom a hug from me Uncle Andy and one to each of your other siblings in Heaven. May you rest in calm seas.

December 22 at 12:57 PM



**Jennifer Adair** posted:

I'm the Jennifer in this story. My Dad was one of a kind. Smart, funny. Not someone you would want to play Trivial Pursuit against. Mere words cannot express how much I miss him. You are forever in my heart, Dad. I love you now and forever.

December 22 at 12:57 PM



## Media

**Andrew Hiram Kiddie**

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**Beverly Dombrowski Benner** shared 2 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album. December 22 at 5:09 PM





# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Andrew by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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