



John E. Kauppila was born in Marquette on March 7, 1948 and is the son of Everett and Helen Kauppila. He graduated from Marquette Senior High School in 1966 and worked that summer through the fall at Ahonen's Saw Mill. John enlisted in the Navy under the 120 day delayed entry and went for basic training in Great Lakes Illinois in January of 1967.

After basic training, he went for 22 weeks of Aviation Electricians Mate School in

Jacksonville, Florida. From Florida John went to North Island in California for Deep Water Survival and then Survival Escape Resistance and Evasion School. He then went to Patrol Squadron 31 at NAS Moffet Field in California for training to be a Radar/Mad Operator on P-3B Orion aircraft. Upon completion of radar training, he joined his squadron VP-40 stationed at Moffet, which was in transition from the P-5 Martins (sea plane) to the P-3Bs.

From Moffet, John made two six month deployments, the first in January of 1969, a West Pac Tour to Iwakuni, Japan. He flew patrols in the Yellow Sea, Sea of Japan and Tusushima Straits and ASW support for task force operations. Also, advanced base patrols were flown out of Cam Ranh Bay, Republic of Vietnam.

The second West Pac Tour was in late April 1970 to Sangley Point, Philippines. There he performed a variety of tasks in the South China Sea, the Phillipines Sea, and the Gulf of

Siam. VP-40 also maintained a detachment at the Royal Thai Naval Base in U-Tapao Thailand, from which extensive patrols off Vietnam coastal waters were flown.

John earned his shellback certificate on a flight from Sangley Point to Australia and back with the Commander of the 7th Fleet and crossed the equator on July 22, 1970. This time he flew as the 2nd Engineer and back up on radar. During John's service, he has flown more than 2,000 hours and earned the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal with 3 Campaign Stars, the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960 -), the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (Korea), and the Air Medal (first Strike/Flight Award).

After his discharge, John returned to Marquette and worked 2 ½ years for the City as a Water Works Operator. In January of 1974, he transferred to the Marquette Board of Light and Power. He operated the hydro plants and diesel plant and retired as Relief Operator at the Shiras Steam Plant with 32 years of service. John lives in the City of Marquette with his wife Teresa (Pelkie), has 3 sons, John Jr., Erik and Nathan, and one daughter, Amber. After 7 years of retirement, John started working maintenance part-time at Mill Creek Assisted Living. John enjoys working on his yard, hunting, fishing and bowling.