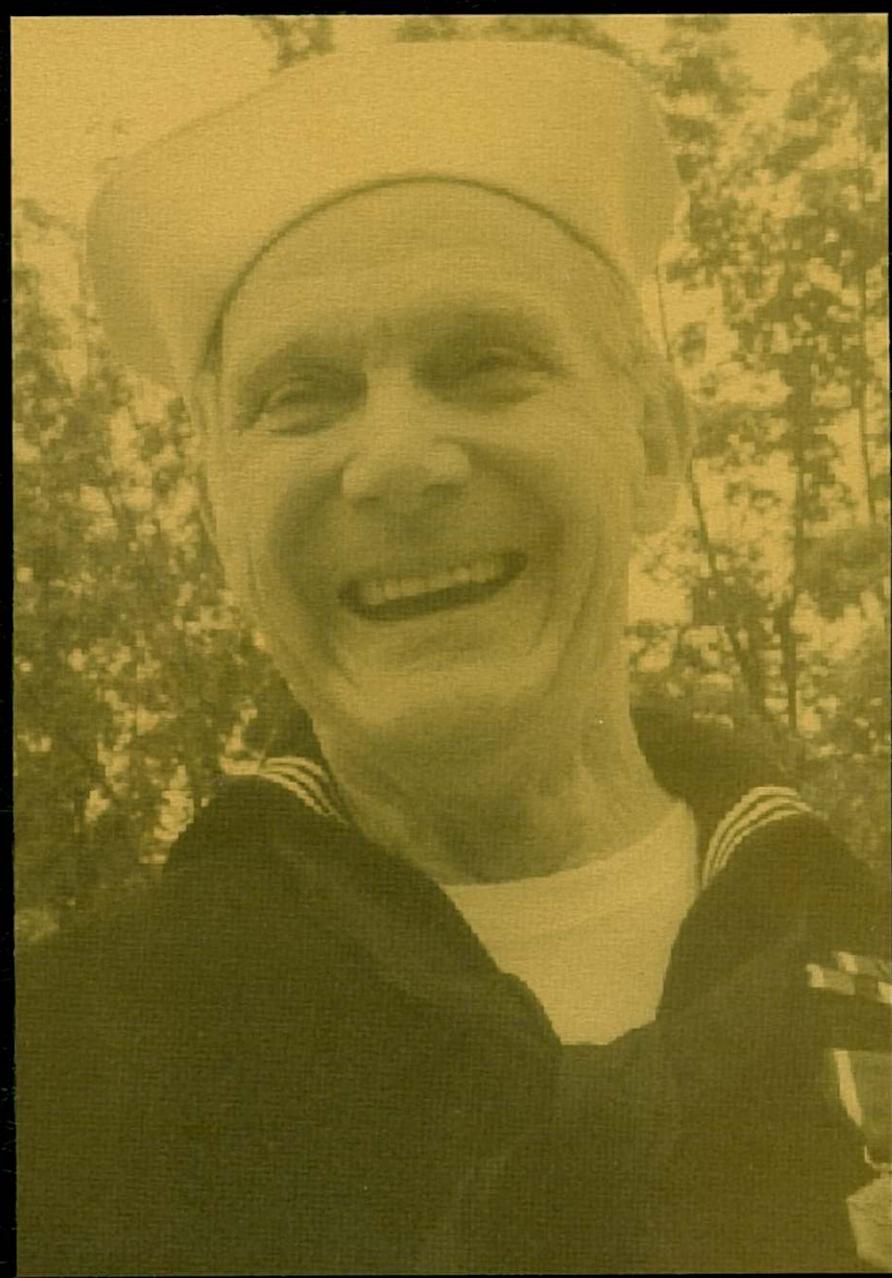


OFHS



WALL OF FAME
Inducted November 11, 2004



ROBERT SKARBAN

Robert Skarban was born July 6, 1929, in Sturgeon Bay, and grew up in Sturgeon Bay, Hartford, Pound, and Coleman before moving to Oconto Falls. At OFHS he participated in football, basketball, track, band, FFA and Aeronautics Club. He excelled in the mile run and the 880 run. As a senior, he was voted Carnival King for the Carnival Dance. After graduating in 1947, he worked for Luisier Well Drilling Company, and the Falls Paper and Power Company.

On April 19, 1949, he enlisted in the United States Navy with basic training at the Great Lakes Naval Center, where he performed in the United States Navy Band and the Navy Drum and Bugle Corps. In Memphis he trained as an Aviation Machinist and graduated number one in his class. He also trained on nuclear instruments, rescue/survival, and forestry. At Miramar San Diego, he was assigned to HU-1 Helicopter Squadron 1.

Assigned to the ice breaker USS Burton Island, he traveled north through the Aleutians, making sonar soundings in preparation for nuclear submarine travel below the North Pole ice cap. He served on several ships as part of a sea-rescue team and performed pilot rescues by swimming and returning them to a helicopter.

After four exciting and informative years serving on the oceans and several foreign countries, he was discharged from the United States Navy on March 19, 1953, having achieved the rank of second class Petty Officer. He received recognition from the Republic of Korea with deep gratitude for noble contributions to the efforts to safeguard Korea and democracy around the world. Petty Officer Skarban was congratulated by Congress, earning the Good Conduct medal, the United Nations Service medal, the Commendation medal with Combat Distinguishing Device, the Korean Service medal, and the Japanese Occupation medal.

Returning to his home in Oconto Falls, he continued his education over the years and graduated from Northeastern Wisconsin Technical College, in 1978, with training in plumbing and pipe fitting. He worked 37 years in the paper industry, serving the Falls Paper and Power Company, Scott Paper Company, and Kimberly Clark. He also worked for Standard Oil Company and the Wisconsin State Highway Commission.

He married Delores Bast, and raised five children. He had a dairy farm and drove an Oconto Falls School bus for 31 years. Community involvement included 35 years as a volunteer hunter education instructor, Cub Scouts, Webelows, Project Leader in 4-H, and treasurer of AARP. He was very active in his St. Anthony Catholic Church and Knights of Columbus.

Robert has been a regular blood donor. Having O positive, he was called several times to the Oconto Falls Hospital as a rare blood donor to save people's lives. A member of the American Legion Post 302 for 43 years, he serves as Chaplain and wears his original Navy uniform at all parades with the Post #302 veterans. Robert Skarban continues to reside in rural Oconto Falls.