



Gary L. Butler, 63, passed away Sunday, Jan. 8, 2006 at the Yuma Regional Medical Center, Yuma, Ariz. Gary was a resident of Yuma, having lived there since 1998.

Gary was born in Hot Springs, Ark. July 29, 1942. He attended Omak grade school and Okanogan Jr. High and High School, where he graduated in 1960. After serving two years in the U.S. National Guard in Okanogan and upon graduation, Gary joined the U.S. Navy.

He was a career sailor, serving 22 years until retirement in 1982. He was a Vietnam Veteran, having received numerous citations for his control of shore bombardment against enemy forces while serving on the **USS Boston, a heavy cruiser**. During his Navy career, he served on four Destroyers, as well as aboard the Boston, and he served three years as an advisor to the Hellenic Navy in Athens, Greece. Gary achieved the highest rating an enlisted person can achieve while in the Navy - Master Chief Fire Control Technician. When he retired, he was the Master Chief of the Command (senior enlisted person), aboard the USS Guadalcanal, a helicopter carrier with approximately 1,200 enlisted personnel.

After retiring from the Navy, Gary worked for a number of years at the Jacksonville, Florida shipyard where he was the only combat systems coordinator, managing the overhaul of complex missile and gun systems aboard Navy ships. When the shipyard went out of business, he moved to Norfolk, Virginia and later to Charleston, South Carolina. While there he worked as a logistician, a pattern maker and an electronics technician. He enjoyed electronics work and fixed a lot of home entertainment systems for his friends and neighbors.

In 1988, Gary began to experience health problems. In 1998, he decided to move to Yuma, Ariz. for the dry desert air. Gary enjoyed his life in Yuma, living quietly on his retirement and visiting with his friends at different Veterans Organizations. He was a member of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV), Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), American Legion and Fleet Reserve Association.

He is survived by his mother, Ruby Dussell of Okanogan, Wash.; and his brother and sister-in-law, Mike and Patsy Butler of Bremerton, Wash.