

William Francis Jackson

Star 80

EM1c (T) William (Bill) Francis Jackson was born in Jersey City, NJ on July 3, 1921. The youngest of 7 children, 4 boys and 3 girls, Bill enlisted in the Navy on March 20, 1942 as an Apprentice Seaman. His basic training was at the U.S. Naval Training Station, Great Lake, Ill. From there he was sent to U.S. Naval Training School in Detroit, Michigan for training as an electrician, then transferred to Submarine school, New London, Connecticut.

He served on the U.S.S Caiman starting in July 1944, and on January 13, 1945 he completed war patrol and crossed the equator. He became a "shellback" which was a ceremonial tradition for sailors who crossed the Equator. It was a measure of their sea worthiness. Over the course of his naval service he received authorization to wear the Asiatic-Pacific Area and the Philippine Liberation Ribbon. He didn't talk a lot about his service time, but one story he did tell was about being at the bottom on the Bering Strait for 3 days while Japanese boats searched for them on the surface. They had to keep absolute silence the entire time, but the Japanese finally went away. His service ended on October 7, 1945 at Naval Training Center San Diego after having spent 2 years, 6 months foreign and/or sea service.

Bill went on to have 6 children, 12 grandchildren and numerous great and great-great grandchildren. He passed away in San Diego on June 24, 2014, just days before his 93rd birthday with many of his family members present. He is interred at Miramar National Cemetery in San Diego.

