

The Official Publication of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America

# The Jewish Veteran

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National Museum of  
American Jewish Military History

1811

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## The Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A. Volume II

### SAMPLE BIOGRAPHY

**HENRY S. GAFFIN**, (Y2/c) USNR, born Jan. 4, 1925 in Worcester, MA. Graduated high school Feb. 1943.

He had basic training at NTS, Newport, RI. Assigned to USS Colahan (DD-658). Participated in ship's commissioning in Brooklyn Navy Yard, August 23, 1943. Underwent shakedown exercises along the East Coast of the U.S. Departed Norfolk, VA for San Francisco, CA via the Panama Canal. Arrived in San Francisco on Dec. 4, 1943. Joined rapidly growing Pacific Fleet.

Served with Fast Carrier Task Force until formal surrender of Japan aboard the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay, Sept. 2, 1945. Survived the Great Typhoon off the Philippines, Dec. 1944, with severe damage to ships. Three destroyers ran out of fuel and capsized with heavy loss of life. In January 1945, while coming out of South China Sea to rejoin fleet, underwent Kamikaze air attack and was hit by shrapnel and treated by ship's doctor.

Decorations: Asiatic-Pacific Medal with eight battle stars, Philippine Liberation Medal with two battle stars, American Theater Medal, Navy Occupation Medal (Asia Clasp), Purple Heart Medal, WWII Victory Medal. Received honorable discharge, April 21, 1946.

Married to Ethel and has a son and daughter. Member of Jewish War Veterans USA, MOPH, Life member of DAV. Employed by the Department of the Army from July 1955 to February 1982. Retired from Federal Service in February, 1982.

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