



National Defense Service Medal



AD Aviation Machinist  
Mate Rating Patch



Martin Mars Flying Boat



C-118 "Liftmaster"

**Ralph Guy Frankenfield**  
**Aviation Machinist's Mate 2/C U.S. Navy**  
**19 December 1950 – 20 September 1954**

Ralph was born on 20 May 1929 in Allentown, Pennsylvania. After attending 1<sup>st</sup> grade at Raub School in Allentown, Ralph's family moved to Route 1, Wescosville, Pennsylvania, in Lower Macungie Township. Ralph attended grades 2-4 at East Texas School, and grades 5-8 at Wescosville School, both in Lower Macungie Township. He went on to graduate from Emmaus High School in Emmaus, Pennsylvania, in 1947. After high school, he went to work in the Maintenance Department of Cement Gunit Company (which later became Allentown Pneumatic Gun Company) in Allentown for three years prior to enlisting in the Navy. Ralph enlisted in Allentown on 19 December 1950 as a Seaman Recruit. He was inducted in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and was sent to the Naval Training Center at Great Lakes, Illinois, for recruit training. After recruit training, he was assigned to the Naval Air Transport Squadron VR-2 at Naval Air Station, Alameda, California, where he was trained as an Aircraft Engine Mechanic and assigned as a Mechanic for the Martin Mars Flying Boat. He left Alameda in the spring of 1953 for Hawaii, where he was assigned to the Ground Maintenance Crew in Navy Transport Squadron VR-21 at Naval Air Station Barbers Point on Oahu as an Aircraft Engine Mechanic for the C-118 "Liftmaster" aircraft. Ralph served at Barbers Point until he was sent back to Navy Recruiting Station in San Francisco, California, for discharge. He left the Navy as an Aviation Machinist's Mate 2/C on 20 September 1954. He returned home and went to work in Allentown for Willard Battery Company (which later became Exide Company) for 33 years until his retirement in 1988. Ralph married **Avonne Evelyn Knauss** (born 15 March 1931) on 19 March 1955 in Emmaus Moravian Church. They made their permanent residence in Emmaus, and raised two children: **Jane Louise** and **Guy Samuel**. Ralph's parents were **Guy Miles Frankenfield** (22 May 1895 – January 1966), who served in the Army during World War I, and **Amenia Louisa Fink** (9 May 1900 – 7 August 1979), who served as an Aircraft Spotter in Krocksville, Pennsylvania, during World War II. Ralph's brother, **Robert Daniel Frankenfield**, served in the Air Force from 4 January 1951 to 13 December 1954.