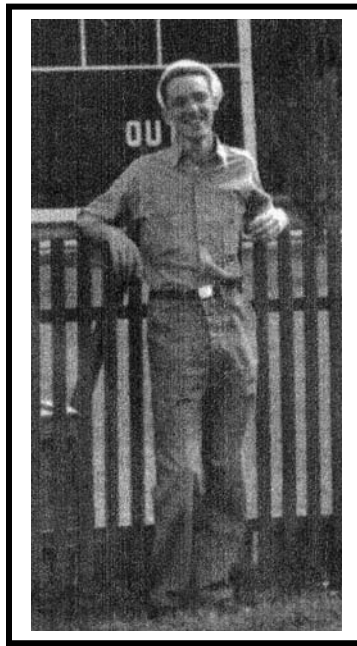




CT Rating
Insignia



Kenneth Laurence Dikeman
Communications Technician 2nd Class U.S. Navy
23 March 1956 – 29 March 1959

Kenneth was born on 30 March 1938 at home in Blakely, Pennsylvania, in Lackawanna County. He was the second of three sons born to **Kenneth Dwight Dikeman** (12 September 1908 – 16 May 1995) and **Octavia Rose Owens** (29 October 1909 – May 1960), both of whom were born in Pennsylvania. Kenneth attended grade school at Columbus Elementary in Blakely, and in 1955 graduated from Blakely High School on Academy Street in Peckville, Pennsylvania. Both of these schools later became defunct after merging with Lincoln Elementary and No. 1 Elementary Schools in Peckville, with a new school being built on Main Street. After graduating from high school, Ken worked in the offices of the Construction of the Pennsylvania Turnpike until his enlistment in the Navy on 23 March 1956. He received basic training at Naval Training Center, Bainbridge, Maryland, after which he was transferred to Naval Training Center, Treasure Island, California, and then to Naval Communications Training Station, San Diego, California, for advanced training as a Communications Technician (CT) for duty with the Naval Security Group Command. After San Diego, in 1957 he was assigned to Naval Security Group Activity, Bremerhaven, Germany, where he was stationed for the remainder of his enlistment. While stationed in Germany, Ken witnessed much of the destruction still visible in the country from World War II. After he was discharged from the Navy on 29 March 1959, Ken returned home to Blakely and went to work as a Station Agent for Allegheny Airlines in Western Pennsylvania prior to obtaining a job as an Electronics Technician at Western Electric Company (which later became Lucent Technologies, Inc.) in Allentown, Pennsylvania. In 1960, he married **Rosemary Elizabeth Kura** (born 24 March 1939) of Peckville. Ken and Rosemary lived in Allentown until February 1967 when they moved to a new housing development at Ancient Oak in Lower Macungie Township, where they raised four children: **Kimberly Rose**, **Kenneth Joseph**, **Rebecca Joan**, and **Miles Theodore**. During a labor strike at Western Electric, Ken worked for a short time helping the carpenters who built the frames for the houses at Ancient Oak. In 1977, Ken earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Electrical Engineering after attending evening courses at Lafayette College in Easton, Pennsylvania. In 1978 the family moved to Sweetwood Drive, also in Lower Macungie, where they lived for 22 years. Ken retired from Lucent Technologies in 1998. In 2001 he and Rosemary moved to Wild Cherry Knoll, an over-age-55 community in Lower Macungie, where he served on the Board of Directors and became active in community affairs. Ken's two brothers, **Richard Miles Dikeman** and **Ray Gene Dikeman**, also served in the Navy after graduating from high school.