



Russell Frederick Hoffman
Construction Electrician 1/C U.S. Navy
27 January 1955 – 21 January 1959

Russell was born in Wescosville, Pennsylvania on 23 April 1936. He attended elementary schools in Wescosville and East Texas, Pennsylvania, and in 1954 graduated from William Allen High School in Allentown, Pennsylvania. He worked in construction prior to his enlistment in the Navy on 27 January 1955. He, along with recruits all from the Lehigh Valley area forming a special company, Lehigh Valley Company 77, were given basic training at Bainbridge Naval Training Center in Bainbridge, Maryland. Upon completion of basic training, Russell attended Class A Construction Electrician Mate School at Port Hueneme, California, and then served the rest of his four-year enlistment in the Civil Engineer Corps (“Seabees”) in the Pacific, first with an assignment to U.S. Naval Administration Unit on Saipan in the Mariana Island Chain from October 1955 to May 1957. During that time, he, along with three other Seabees and three island personnel, were given a special assignment to reinstall an electrical system on the neighboring Island of Tinian. The original system had been inactive since World War II. Russell was then reassigned to Mobile Construction Battalion 5, which led to a tour of duty at Kodiak, Alaska, from June 1957 to July 1958. He then served the remainder of his enlistment at Naval Air Station on Midway Island from August 1958 to January 1959. After he was discharged he returned Wescosville for a short period of time and then relocated to San Diego, California, to work for an electrical construction company. He married **Karen Kyburz** (born August 1942) in San Diego. He and Karen settled in El Cajon, California, and raised three children: Vicki, Daniel, and Robert. In 1964 Russell bought an electrical contracting firm with a partner and successfully operated it for number of years, eventually buying out his partner and operating it under the name of Karvon Electric Corporation until his retirement in 2003. His sons then continued the business. Russell was the youngest of 7 children, 6 sons and a daughter, Kathleen, born to **Norman Henry Hoffman** (2 December 1895 – 17 June 1963) and **Bessie Kate Haas** (23 December 1896 – 13 January 1992). One son, Kermit, died in infancy. Of Norman and Bessie’s other sons, three of them, **Norman Charles**, **Erwin Arthur**, and **Wilbert Oliver** served during World War II, Norman and Erwin in the Army, and Wilbert in the Navy. Another son, **Lamont Lewis**, served in the Army during the Korean War. Norman and Bessie’s daughter, **Kathleen**, served on the home front in thought, words, and deeds of encouragement for all of her brothers, for which they were all grateful. Russell joined and became active in the San Diego Masonic Lodge, and became active with construction projects in his workshop and other family projects including construction of a barn for his son Dan and a new home for his son Robert. His hobbies include golf, tennis, and collecting old tools.