



Aviation Mechanic
Insignia

James William Roth
Aircraft Mechanic 3/C U.S. Navy
23 August 1951 – 18 August 1955

James was born on 10 February 1930 in Allentown, Pennsylvania, where he, his brother, **Gerald Robert Roth**, and their parents, **Leon Franklin Roth** (2 March 1909 – 28 January 1962) and **Agnes Augusta (Fix) Roth** (7 November 1908 – 13 February 1983), were living at the time. In 1940, they moved to Wescosville, Pennsylvania, where they lived in a log house built in 1792 and believed to have been originally used as a summer kitchen for the Wescosville Hotel. In 1989, the log house was moved to its present location adjacent to the Wescosville Recreation Center. James attended grade school in Allentown and later in Wescosville, and graduated from Emmaus High School in 1950 after working for a while as a Stock Boy for H. Leh & Company in Allentown. On 27 January 1949, while still in high school, James enlisted in the Navy Reserve. He went on active duty as a Seaman Recruit in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on 23 August 1951. He was stationed at Naval Air Station, Key West, Florida, where he was assigned to Helicopter Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) Squadron (HELASRON) One (or HS-1), nicknamed the “Seahorse Squadron.” At that time, HS-1 was being formed at Key West, and was officially established on 3 October 1951. The Squadron, the first of its kind in the Navy, was the Navy’s pioneer unit for helicopter-borne ASW operations and engaged in training ashore and at sea to refine the art of ASW using the dunking sonar. James qualified as an Aircraft Structural Mechanic (AM) for helicopters in the Squadron. He was promoted to AM3 on 16 October 1952, and served a great deal of his active duty time at sea with the squadron on training missions. James was discharged as AM3 on 18 August 1955, and was awarded the National Defense Service Medal and the Good Conduct Medal. After his discharge, James returned to Wescosville, and began working as a Laborer for Exide Battery Corporation in Allentown until his retirement in 1987. James married **Marilyn Hensinger** (born 19 March 1932) in 1956. They eventually settled in Moore Township, Northampton County, Pennsylvania. James died on 26 October 2006 in Lehigh Valley Hospital-Muhlenberg, and is buried in Emmaus Moravian Cemetery. James and Marilyn had four children: **James William Jr.**, **Liza J. (Szarko)**, **Lorrie Jill**, and **Jamielynn R. (Albanese)**. James’s brother, Gerald, served in the Army during the Korean War.



HS-1 Squadron Helicopter