



*USS Intrepid (CVA-11)*



*USS Valley Forge (CVS-45)*



Russell "Kenny Rogers" Kauffman  
1993 – 2000

**Russell William Kauffman**  
**First Sergeant U.S. Marine Corps**  
**6 February 1952 – 1 March 1974**

Russell was born at home on 6 August 1934 in Weilersville, Pennsylvania. Shortly thereafter, his family moved to Brookdale in Lower Macungie Township where he attended grade school in two one-room schoolhouses: Lehigh Church School in Brookdale (grades 1-3 and 5-8), and Schmoyer's School on Spring Creek Road (grade 4). He attended Emmaus High School in Emmaus, Pennsylvania, from 1949 until enlisting in the Marine Corps during his junior year on 6 February 1952. While in the Marine Corps, he earned his high school diploma in 1953 from Emmaus High School through the General Education Development Program. While in high school, Russell worked part-time at Rodale Manufacturing Company in Emmaus and at an Acme Food Market in Allentown, Pennsylvania. Russell underwent recruit training at Parris Island, South Carolina. He graduated on 8 April 1952, was assigned to the Infantry, and was ordered to Marine Detachment, Naval Ammunition Depot, Charlotte, North Carolina. While at Charlotte, initially he provided security for the installation, and later was assigned as a Supply Clerk. On 19 July 1953, while on leave, he married **Jo Ann Newcomer** (born 4 September 1934) at Lehigh Zion Reformed Church in Brookdale. On 5 February 1955, he was ordered to Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, for release from active duty as a Sergeant and assignment to the Marine Corps Reserves. He, Jo Ann, and their first son returned to Pennsylvania where they lived with Russell's parents, initially in Brookdale and later in Macungie, Allentown and Emmaus. Russell drove delivery trucks, successively, for an independent rural bakery route, Ralston Flowers in Allentown, American Sash Company in Macungie, and Trexler Lumber Company in Allentown. On 19 June 1957, Russell returned to active duty as a Sergeant and was ordered to Supply Company, Service Battalion, Quantico, Virginia, where he changed his specialty from Supply to Administration and was assigned as Chief Clerk. He then served at numerous duty stations including aboard Attack Carriers *USS Intrepid (CVA-11)* and *USS Valley Forge (CVS-45)*, and stateside at Camp Lejeune; Gulfport, Mississippi; Camp Pendleton, California; and Okinawa before leaving for Vietnam in March 1966 where he was assigned to 1<sup>st</sup> Engineer Battalion, 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division at Chu Lai. He left Vietnam in February 1967 and reported to Parris Island as a Drill Instructor for 32 months before redeploying in December 1969 to Da Nang, Vietnam, as First Sergeant, Headquarters and Service Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Regiment, 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division. In January 1971, Russell returned stateside to serve as Sergeant Major at Naval Air Station, Lakehurst, New Jersey, and Camp Pendleton as a First Sergeant. Russell retired from the Marine Corps as First Sergeant at Camp Pendleton on 1 March 1974. He and his family went to live in Orlando, Florida, where he worked, successively, for Tenneco Oil Company; Martin Marietta Corporation; Aerospace Corporation; Peabody Orlando Hotel; National Communications; Convention Planning Services; and IPCA/IPI before retiring in 1996. In 1982 he earned an Associate's Degree in Business Administration from Jones College in Florida. Russell also became active in numerous professional USMC/Service-related organizations and as a look-alike role portrayer of Kenny Rogers, Mr. Bibb, Pillsbury Dough Boy, Ernest Hemmingway, Jerry Garcia, and mostly as Santa Claus, including three years at Walt Disney World and Universal Studios. He and Jo Ann had three children: **Larry Robert**, **Michael William**, and **Kathy Lou**. Russell's parents were **Robert Emory Kauffman** (30 June 1900 – 28 July 1968) and **Pauline Margarete Johnson** (14 March 1907 – 23 February 1999).