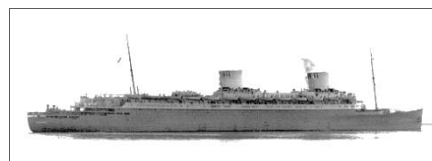




Eugene Howard McDermott Jr.
Machinist Mate 2/C U.S. Navy
2 August 1943 – 30 May 1946

Eugene was born on 8 March 1925, on Staten Island, New York, to **Eugene Edward McDermott Sr.** (6 March 1900 – 6 January 1969) and **Mabel Charlotte (Goodacre) McDermott** (11 August 1900 – May 1984). Eugene attended grade school in Bradley Beach, New Jersey, and, upon graduation from Port Richmond High School on Staten Island in 1943, he was drafted into the Navy. He was inducted on 2 August of that year at St. George, Staten Island, as Seaman Recruit, and he underwent training as an engine room Machinist Mate. He was then assigned to the Pacific Theater, where he served from March 1944 until after the end of World War II with

“LION FOUR”, a large advanced base depot in the Solomon Islands, with necessary personnel and material assigned to perform battle-damage repairs to ships of the 3rd Fleet. During that time, Eugene advanced in rank to Machinist Mate 2/C. Eugene returned to the States in September 1945, and was assigned to troop ship USS *Europa* (AP 177), a German ship which had been taken as a prize of war by the Allies on 8 May 1945, and assigned to the U.S. Navy. She had been commissioned on 25 August



USS *Europa* (AP 177)

1945. *Europa* had cleared Bremerhaven, Germany, on 11 September 1945, loaded 4,500 homeward-bound American troops in Southampton, England, and arrived in New York on 24 September 1945, when Eugene boarded her. After alteration to increase her troop-carrying capacity, she made two voyages to Southampton to bring servicemen home. She sailed from New York the last time on 15 March 1946, moored at Bremerhaven on 24 March 1946, and was decommissioned on 2 May 1946. Eugene was then assigned to another ship, a German tanker, which had been taken over by the British at Bremerhaven when the war had ended and had been given to the U.S. Navy on 15 January 1946. She was designated USS *Dithmarschen* (IX-301) and placed in service on 2 May 1946. Six days later she departed Bremerhaven and arrived at Philadelphia Naval Shipyard on 19 May 1946, for conversion to a U.S. Navy ship. Eugene was discharged from the Navy on 30 May 1946, and was

awarded the American Campaign Medal, Asiatic-Pacific-Asia Campaign Medal, and World War II Victory Medal. After he returned home, Eugene attended Michigan State University in Lansing, Michigan, from 1948 to 1952. During the autumn of 1950, as class president, he was the brainchild behind “The Old Brass Spittoon,” a unique trophy presented to the winner of the Michigan State vs. Indiana football game every year. Eugene graduated from the university with a Bachelor’s Degree in Journalism, and went to work in advertising for Union Carbide Corporation in New Jersey. Eugene was married to the former



USS *Dithmarschen* (IX-301)

Lois Brown, of Staten Island, New York, from 1946 until 1969. They made their home in Bound Brook, New Jersey, and had two children, **Merrell** and **Brooke**. Eugene later went to work for Condé Nast Publishers in New York City, in promotions and copywriting, then moved to RCA Corporation in New Jersey, in public relations, and was transferred to Allentown, Pennsylvania. He married **Susan Long** of Allentown on 15 January 1972. They had two children, **Sean** and **Erin**, and grandchildren **Keara**, **Caitlin** and **Lauren**. Eugene retired in 1986. He and Susan moved to Lower Macungie Township in April 2013. Eugene’s father served in the Merchant Marine in 1916; his uncle **Harry McDermott** in the Navy during World War I; his uncle **George J. Goodacre Sr.** in the Army during World War I and World War II; and his cousin **George J. Goodacre Jr.** in the Army during World War II.