



**Charles William Crompton**  
**Machinery Repairman 2/C U.S. Navy**  
**19 July 1948 – 18 July 1952**

Charles was born on 6 November 1928 in Gallatin, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, to **Fredrick Blaine Crompton** (11 July 1903 – 8 November 1990) and **Della (Adamson) Crompton** (10 November 1902 – 24 September 1967). Charles attended grade school in Gallatin and completed two years of high school in Monongahela, Pennsylvania. In January 1945, he began working in the machine shop for Combustion Engineering Company in East Monongahela. On 19 July 1948, Charles enlisted in the Navy in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, as a Seaman Recruit and, after recruit and specialty training for Machinery Repairman (MR), was assigned to light aircraft carrier USS *Saipan* (CVL 48) of the Second Fleet, homeported in Norfolk, Virginia. Charles reported aboard *Saipan* on 1 September 1948, while she was undergoing overhaul in Norfolk. In December 1948, she resumed operations, embarked two of the Navy's latest type helicopters, the XHJS-1, and three Marine Corps HRP-1 helicopters and proceeded north to Cape Farewell, Greenland, to assist in the rescue of eleven airmen downed on the ice cap. On 29 December 1948, as she was preparing to launch the helicopters, a C-47 aircraft, equipped with jet assist takeoff and skis, landed on the ice and evacuated the marooned airmen. *Saipan* then returned to Norfolk, arriving on 31 December 1948.



USS *Saipan* (CVL 48)

She set sail again on 28 January 1949, to conduct exercises out of Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, until returning to Norfolk on 10 March 1949. She then conducted operations in support of the Navy's Operational Development Force and conducted Navy Reserve training cruises to Canada, including one during which she assisted in qualifying Royal Canadian Navy pilots in carrier landings. From November 1949 to March 1951, *Saipan* remained on the east coast, operating from the Virginia Capes south. On 6 March 1951, she got underway as the flagship for Carrier Division 14 and sailed for duty with the Sixth Fleet for three months in western Mediterranean waters until the end of May 1951. She then headed for home. On 8 June 1951, she arrived back at Norfolk, and resumed operations in the western Atlantic from Greenland to the Caribbean. While on leave, Charles married **Emma Lorine Daughtridge** (born 22 November 1934) in Rocky Mount, North Carolina, on 15 December 1951. Charles was detached from *Saipan* on 1 June 1952. While he served aboard *Saipan*, Charles had advanced to the rate of MR 2/C on 19 October 1951. Upon detachment from *Saipan*, Charles was transferred to escort carrier USS *Block Island* (CVE 106) for a month before he was released from active duty on 18 July 1952. For his service, he was awarded the Navy Good Conduct Medal and the Navy Occupation Service Medal for his deployment to the Mediterranean. After he left the Navy, he and Emma lived in Gallatin while Charles resumed working for Combustion Engineering for three years. Then, in March 1955, they moved to Levittown, Pennsylvania, when Charles went to work for U.S. Steel Corporation in Fairless Hills, Pennsylvania. Charles retired from U.S. Steel in April 1991, and he and Emma moved to Fort Loudon, Pennsylvania, until 1995, when they relocated and permanently settled in Macungie, Pennsylvania. Charles and Emma raised four children; **Clarence William, Donald Wayne, Terry Darlene, and Paul Douglas**. Charles's brother, **Fredrick Crompton** served in the Army during World War II.



USS *Block Island* (CVE 106)