



Robert Franklin Schlegel
Storekeeper 3/C U.S. Navy
24 June 1965 – 20 June 1968

Robert was born on 2 November 1946, in Quakertown, Pennsylvania, to **Charles Rudolph Schlegel** (5 May 1919 – 27 March 1996) and **Marguerite Ella (Marquet) Schlegel** (9 October 1920 – 18 January 2012). The family home was at 1118 Park Avenue in Quakertown, where Robert attended grade school from 1952 to 1960, and graduated from Quakertown High School in 1965. He then enlisted in the Navy as a Seaman Recruit and was inducted in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on 24 June 1965. He completed recruit training at Naval Training Center, Great Lakes, Illinois, on 30 August 1965, and was then assigned to destroyer USS *Gainard* (DD 706), which he boarded on 14 September 1965 at her home port in Newport, Rhode Island. While Robert was aboard *Gainard*, he served as a Deck Hand, while *Gainard* operated along the Atlantic Coast. On 23 February 1966, Robert was ordered to duty aboard guided missile destroyer USS *Harry E. Yarnell* (DLG 17), boarding her in her home port of Norfolk, Virginia, on 7 March 1966. Initially, Robert served aboard *Yarnell* as a Security Guard and later as a Storekeeper in the Supply Division. After operating in the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean, *Yarnell* made two deployments to the Mediterranean and conducted operations in home waters and in the North Atlantic. The *Yarnell's* Supply Division was awarded the Efficiency Award for its performance during 1967. On 16 January 1968, Robert was promoted to Storekeeper 3/C, and on 9 February 1968, he was ordered to report to destroyer USS *Mullinnix* (DD 944), also homeported in Norfolk. He boarded *Mullinnix* on 21 February 1968, in Norfolk, and continued to serve aboard her as a Storekeeper until he was detached and released from active duty on 20 June 1968 at Portsmouth, Virginia. He was then transferred to the Navy Reserve, in which he served until 23 June 1971, attached to the Naval Reserve Training Center at Bainbridge, Maryland. For his service, he was awarded the National Defense Service Medal. After returning home, Robert worked for Schlegel Construction Company in Quakertown as a carpenter until 1971. During that time, on 6 June 1970, he married **Janet Ruth Kunkle** (born 13 October 1946) in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. They initially lived in Allentown, Pennsylvania, and in March 1972, they moved to Emmaus, Pennsylvania. In 1976, Robert went to work for Caloric Appliance Corporation in Topton, Pennsylvania, as an assembly worker until 1980, and then worked in the Engineering Development & Test Center for Mack Truck in Allentown until 1996. In June 1979, he and Janet moved to Riverbend Road in Lower Macungie Township, where they established their permanent home and are presently residing, and where Robert is enjoying his hobby of gardening. Robert has been a life-time member of the American Legion Post 242 in Quakertown, and a member of the Tin Can Sailors Association. He and Janet raised two children, **Noelle Lynn** and **Robert Franklin Jr.** Robert's brother, **Charles R. Schlegel Jr.**, was a career sailor who served in the Navy from 1961 to 1983, and retired as a Senior Chief Fire Control Technician Missiles.



USS *Gainard* (DD 706)



USS *Harry E. Yarnell* (DLG/CG 17)



USS *Mullinnix* (DD 944)