



Robert Lee Yenser
Seaman 1/C U.S. Navy
9 April 1944 – 8 January 1946

Robert was born on 7 March 1926 in Allentown, Pennsylvania. He initially lived with his family in South Whitehall, Pennsylvania, on a farm near the site of the Allentown Rose Garden until he was about two years old. They then moved to Lower Macungie Township where they lived at several locations, including a farm on Krocks Road north of Route 222 for a year or two; a house owned by the Dr. Miller estate across from Butz's General Store in East Texas for a short while; a house on Riverbend Road where Robert was living when he attended 1st grade at Riegel's School; another house on Riverbend Road near Minesite while attending grades 2–5 at Hartzell's School; and finally, a house on Lower Macungie Road just west of the crossroads in East Texas to which they moved in 1937. Robert attended grades 6–8 at the two-room schoolhouse in East Texas while living there. After 8th grade and until his entry into the Navy, Robert worked as an Apprentice Tinsmith/Roofer for Allen Leibensperger, who also lived in East Texas and operated a roofing business there. On 9 April 1944 Robert was drafted into the Navy as a Seaman. He was drafted in Allentown and was sent to Camp Perry, Virginia, where he was assigned to the Navy's Civil Engineer Corps ("SEABEES") and worked in Camp Maintenance as a water-tender in the plumber shop, making routine checks at the Camp's water filtration plant. He also stood guard duty at the water reservoir located between Camp Perry and Williamsburg, Virginia, and transported German prisoners-of-war to different areas of the camp to work as tradesmen. Robert's knowledge of Pennsylvania Dutch served him well in communicating with the prisoners and issuing them instructions. The prisoners in his care were very young or very old, with the latter being highly skilled and performing their duties proudly and well. In Robert's words, the prisoners liked dealing with a "Dutchy" person. Robert served at Camp Perry until his discharge on 8 January 1946 at Williamsburg. After his discharge, he returned to his home in East Texas and to work once again for Allen Leibensperger for about a year. He started his own roofing business in 1946 which he operated for 40 years, retiring in 1986. He married **Joyce Evelyn Berger** (born 20 November 1925) on 30 November 1946, after which he built a house in East Texas on Brookside Road where he and Joyce settled. They raised five children: Susan, Nancy, Linda, Lee, and Mark, all of whom graduated from college. Robert's brother, **Frederick C. Yenser** (19 November 1923 – 8 January 1999) served in the Army during World War II, and his father **Robert S. Yenser** (24 February 1894 – 13 August 1947) served in the Army during World War I. Robert's mother was **Martha B. Schick** (27 July 1895 – 1 July 1965).