



# Marvin J Sizemore

## 1922-

**BIRTH** 13 MAR 1922 • Hyden, Kentucky

**DEATH** Living

### Facts

#### Age 0 – Birth

13 Mar 1922 • Hyden, Kentucky

#### Age 18 – Military

30 Sep 1940 • enlisted USN at Louisville KY

#### Age 18 – Military

31 Dec 1940 • Rcv'd from USS ASTORIA

#### Age 19 – Military

31 Dec 1941 • USS Houston CA-30  
Noted as being POW

#### Age 19 – Military

10 Feb 1942 • TFXed to hospital on Java

#### Age 19 – Military

1 Mar 1942 • noted as POW

#### Age 23 – Military

25 Sep 1945 • Nike #3 POW Camp Thailand  
worked the TBR as part of the Fitzsimmons Grp; liberated from KAN

#### Age 37 – Retirement

1959

Sizemore continued to serve in the Navy and was later assigned as an instructor to the Miami University Naval ROTC. In 1959, he retired from the Navy with a rank of chief petty officer.

#### Age 80 – Residence

2002 • Hamilton, OH

#### Age 100 – 100th Birthday

13 Mar 2022 • going strong

### Sources

#### Ancestry sources



Global, Find A Grave Index for Burials at Sea and other Select Burial Locations, 1300s-Current



U.S. Public Records Index, 1950-1993, Volume 1



U.S. World War II Navy Muster Rolls, 1938-1949



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U.S. World War II Navy Muster Rolls, 1938-1949



U.S., Navy Casualties Books, 1776-1941



U.S., World War II Hospital Admission Card Files, 1942-1954



World War II Prisoners of the Japanese, 1941-1945



World War II Prisoners of War,  
1941-1946

## Notes

Occupation: Retired-US Navy, and Oxford, Ohio Police Department Timeline: 1940 – June – US Navy  
1942 – March – Captured as Japanese POW 1945 – September – Liberated from Japanese capture  
1959 – August – Retired from active US Navy service 1959 – December – Police Officer, Oxford, Ohio  
1960 – April – Dayton Police Academy 1980 – March – Retired, Oxford, Ohio Police Department Dec  
2011- was awarded 14 medals for military service unknown death Interests: Fishing, Golf Sizemore  
Marvin (n) SM2C USN POW-Liberated On the night of February 28, 1942, the U.S.S. Houston, Admiral  
Tommy Hart's former Asiatic flagship, vanished without a trace somewhere off the Northwest coast of  
Java. The mystery of the Houston remained complete until the war ended and small groups of survivors  
were discovered in Japs prisoner of war camps, scattered from the island of Java through the Malay  
Peninsula, the jungles of Burma and Thailand, and northward to the Islands of Japan.Of the 1,008  
officers and men who manned her, approximately 350 escaped from the sinking ship, only to be  
captured in the jungles of Java, or as they floundered helplessly in the sea. Of the original survivors,  
only 266 lived through the ordeal of filth and brutal treatment meted out to them in Japs prisoner of war  
camps.Written by Cmdr. Walter G. Winslow, USN " The Journal News Hamilton, Ohio18 Nov  
2018, Sun • Page A3 Navy veteran Marvin Sizemore awarded 14 medals and ribbons. By Meagan Engle  
Staff Writer OXFORD World War II prisoner of war Marvin Sizemore stood stoic as medals long overdue  
to him were pinned to his Navy uniform during a ceremony in his honor Monday. Sizemore, now 89, was  
awarded14 medals and ribbons, including Combat Action Ribbon for taking enemy fire and a Prisoner  
of War Medal for the three and a half years he spent in a Japanese work camp.The Hamilton resident  
was 19years old when he was capturedwhile receiving medical treatment at a civilian Dutch hospital in  
Java.He was sent to the hospital just a day before the ship he was servingon, the USS Houston, sank in  
com-bat, leaving more than 1,000 men dead. During his three and a half years in captivity, Sizemore  
suffered from malnutrition and beatings. He was forced to work on the Burma-Thai Railway, known as  
the "Death Railway. " For every mile of the 258-mile railway, 411 lost their lives, said Col. Patrick Malay,  
who pinned the ribbons on Sizemore. "All your civil rights are taken away from you. It was tough.  
"Sizemore said. "It's something that you never understand unless it happens to you. "A lot of guys just  
gave up," he said. Sizemore said he was liberated a few days after the atomic bombs were dropped on  
Japan. He weighed just 90 pounds at the time. Sizemore continued to serve in the Navy and was later  
assigned as an instructor to the Miami University Naval ROTC. In 1948, He married his wife, Helen. In  
1959, he retired from the Navy with a rank of chief petty officer.His career continued as a patrolman with  
the Oxford Police Department, where he worked for 20 years.Many of his former co-workers who  
attended the ceremony said they knew little of Sizemore's service. Sizemore's daughter, Freddi  
Crawford, worked for a year with Sen. Sherrod Brown's office to get the medals for her father."It made  
me cry, " Crawford said of the ceremony. "I'm really proud of him. " [https://www.journal-news.com/news/two-butler-county-veterans-the-year-honored/sTVHsn31F5fYLR93KcNzpK/?fbclid=IwAR3BKZQ8qiqk78GA2drfhVrEoYRcfzteoAOwYVmgH\\_ulOfkgOITaCbY2b0A](https://www.journal-news.com/news/two-butler-county-veterans-the-year-honored/sTVHsn31F5fYLR93KcNzpK/?fbclid=IwAR3BKZQ8qiqk78GA2drfhVrEoYRcfzteoAOwYVmgH_ulOfkgOITaCbY2b0A)  
<https://valor.militarytimes.com/hero/302004> <http://www.usshouston.net/stor/SizemoreM/SizemoreM.htm> The Hamilton resident was 19 years old when he was captured while receiving medical  
treatment at a civilian Dutch hospital in Java. He was sent to the hospital just a day before the ship he  
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