



## **Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution**



### **January 2007 Patriot of the Month Linda L. Stevens**

Linda Stevens enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1968 with the sole purpose of going to serve in Vietnam but was rejected because of a previous spinal surgery to correct a congenital spinal defect. She wrote to the President of the United States asking for an exemption. She was granted a personal Presidential waiver but was disqualified from combat duty. She determined to serve returning Vietnam veterans stateside.

Linda served with the Army Medical Regiment at Fitzsimmons Army Medical Center at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. She graduated from Army Medical Officer Training School in the top 2% of her class and on the Commandant's List. She received the National Defense Service Medal.

Linda left the Army in 1971 but continued in nursing as a Critical Care Nurse for 30 years. She has an RN diploma and a BA in Business Management. She is a published author of multiple nursing papers and was chosen to present the results of one of her many research studies at a College of Cardiology convention. She became disabled and unable to work in 1994.

Linda's father was a B-17 pilot during WWII. His military records were destroyed in a fire at the Military Personnel Record Center in the early 1970s. Linda is researching her father's military service history and has located and contacted several living members of her father's crew. As a result of her efforts, three members of the crew have been reunited.

Linda's research of her father's military service history has led her to do military service history research for family and friends. She has researched, applied for, and obtained awards and medals due these veterans, many of whom were unaware they were due the awards. Using the military history, artifacts, medals, and awards, Linda makes shadow boxes for the veterans. A brother of a friend was killed in action during WWII. She researched the circumstances of his death, obtained medals and awards due this veteran, including the Purple Heart with clusters, and presented the family a shadow box as visible proof of his service. Linda says that this work has become her mission and is her way of honoring "the greatest generation."

Linda is a practicing member of the Lutheran Church, served on the Church Board, and served for three years as a Lay Minister. She is a member of the Police Department mobile reserve, the Vietnam Veterans Association, and the Bruce Family Association. She loves her pets, and enjoys painting, drawing, photography, and playing the guitar.

Linda is a member of the Webster Groves Chapter NSDAR since 1999. Her Patriot is Matthew Gault of Pennsylvania.

Carol McKay of the Webster Groves Chapter proudly nominated Linda for MSSDAR Patriot of the Month.