

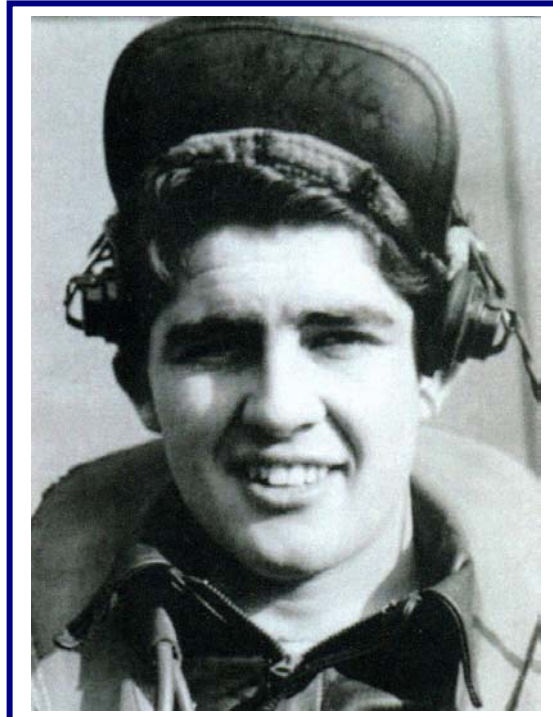
**Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution  
Proudly "Spotlights" our January 2012  
Patriot of the Month**



**Gene Grady**

Sponsored by:

**Missouris Shoal Chapter  
Lathrop, Missouri**



Gene Grady was born on November 10, 1922, north of Lathrop, Missouri. He graduated from Lathrop High School and in August 1943, he joined the United States Air Force. He had an older brother already in the service and he thought it was also his duty to serve his country.

Gene flew twenty-eight combat missions as a waist gunner on a B-17 aircraft as part of the 8<sup>th</sup> United States Air Force, 94<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group. His eighteenth mission was one that he will never forget. After flying over Germany and on the return trip home, the plane was hit by enemy anti-aircraft fire. The pilot had been hit. He was laid down in the catwalk, blood springing from his left eye. German anti-aircraft fire had shattered the left side window and blew the shards inward. Thousands of feet in the air a fierce wind poured through the newly torn hole while members of the crew administered first aid to the pilot.

The co-pilot was a young, inexperienced kid who took control of the B-17 while flak from the anti-aircraft fire rocked the plane in every direction. While his fellow crewmembers tended to the pilot, Gene stuck with the co-

**pilot in the cockpit, calling out the airspeed and shooting off flares to call for an emergency response on the ground.**

**Years later the pilot let Gene in on a secret. The co-pilot had never landed the plane before that day. He told Gene that all through training, the co-pilot would fly the plane but before they got to the ground, he would tell him to take over.**

**After his twenty-eighth mission, Gene returned to the states. On October 5, 1945, he was discharged at Las Vegas, Nevada.**

**His awards, medals, and citations include:**

- Air Medal w/3 oak leaf clusters**
- 4 Battle Stars**
- Distinguished Unit Badge**
- 2 Presidential Citations**

**Gene and his wife Doris Lee have two boys and one girl. They also have seven grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.**

**After the war Gene started farming and remained a farmer all of his life. He is a member of the Christian Church, American Legion, and Farm Bureau.**