

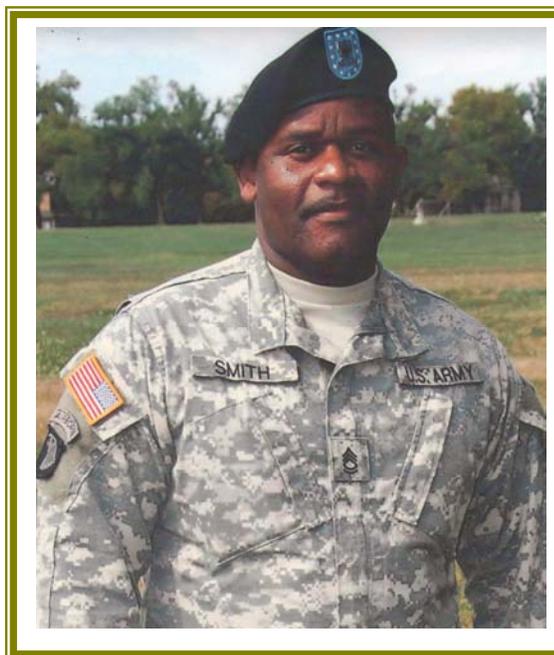
Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution
Proudly "Spotlights" March 2012
Patriot of the Month



David Lee Smith

Sponsored by:

**Isaac Garrison
Chapter
Nixa, Missouri**



David Lee Smith was born in Norfolk, Virginia June 25, 1960, where he graduated from high school in 1978. He married his wife, Arlene, on April 24, 1982 and entered the United States Army in July, 1983 at Norfolk.

David was in the active Army for fifteen years and then went into the Army Reserves when he began pastoring at Mt. Olive Baptist Church. After pastoring about three or four years, 9-11 happened. Approximately a week later, he was called into active duty. During this time he was asked to be the Chaplain of the National Guard for the State of Missouri. He traveled in and out of the airports meeting spiritual needs of the soldiers.

First Sergeant Smith met Chaplain Zimmerman, Chief of Army Chaplains, in the Kansas City Airport as Chaplain Zimmerman was on his way to meet the President. This meeting greatly encouraged David in his duties as a Chaplain. He served in this role for about a year and a half.

In total, David served twenty two years of active duty. His assignments included: Ft. Hood, Texas; Fort Benning, Georgia; Fort Carson, Colorado; Fort Ord, California; Fort Riley, Kansas; Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri; Fort Hunter, Legget, California; and National Training Center in California. He completed tours in Germany, Korea, West Iraq, Camp Virginia, Kuwait, Ireland, Italy, and Kandahar, Afghanistan.

David is a veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. His last assignment was in Afghanistan where he served in the 425th Transportation Company. He managed the day to day operations of the Company and was the principal trainer for every soldier in the Company.

Other duties included being responsible for entry control points, observation posts and combat/logistical convoys to several forward operation bases throughout the Afghanistan theatre of operation. He conducted Non Commissioned Officer development programs, performance counseling and other guidance to mentor and develop subordinate Non Commissioned Officers. He held formations, instilled discipline, instructed platoon sergeants and conducted daily unit operations.

David's medals include:

- Bronze Star
- Army Commendation Medal
- Meritorious Service Medal
- Army Achievement Medal
- Good Conduct Medal w/bronze star
- Global War on Terrorism Service Medal
- Korean Defense Medal
- Iraq Campaign Medal

David recalled one memorable event, "We are preparing for a convoy to move supplies forward for the war fighters. One of our specialists is a little sad because his leave was cancelled to help with the build up of Al Qaida insurgency. This soldier was going home to be with his wife as she gave birth to their first son. I had to stop his leave to help with

the battle. We were able to contact the hospital and get a video feed of the birth live. We surprised the soldier with the live recording of his son's birth. This moment was not only memorable for the soldier, but for the others who watched. This sent the message that our God is not bound by geographical location, but He can reach beyond boundaries, and can bring families, relationships and situations together for the better."

First Sergeant Smith retired on June 1, 2011 at Fort Riley, Kansas. He is now in the inactive reserves.

David and Arlene moved to Springfield, Missouri in June 1998. They have two children and two grandchildren. David's civilian career has included pastoring Mt. Olive Ministries and as the Service Coordinator for Yellow Roadway Trucking Company. Pastor David and Arlene are members of Deliverance Temple Ministries and are on the Pastoral Team of the church.