

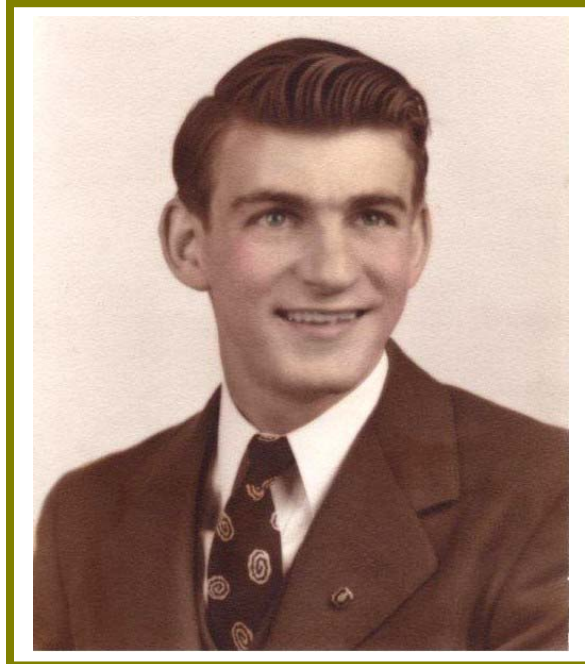
Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution
Proudly “Spotlights” our April 2012
Patriot of the Month



La Mar Bender

Sponsored by:

**Armstrong Chapter
Armstrong, Missouri**



La Mar Bender graduated in 1944 from Reading Senior High School in Pennsylvania. After graduation, he worked at Jacobs Aircraft Engine Company in Pottstown, Pennsylvania. Later he went to work for Reading Steel Products.

La Mar was drafted on March 7, 1945 into the Army and received basic training at Camp Blanding, Florida. He was transferred to Ft. Rucker, Alabama for Advanced Infantry Training and then sent to Ft Ord, California. He was on a ship headed to Japan when the war ended. Their destination was then changed to Korea to repatriate the Japanese there, who had occupied Korea for 30 years.

La Mar was stationed at 7th Division Headquarters in Seoul, Korea where he was a topographical draftsman. He shared the story of a floating mine being sighted off the starboard side of the ship on the way to Korea. In order to prevent the wash from the propellers sucking the mine against the ship, the captain stopped the engines and the ship just drifted until the mine floated out of range. After leaving Korea on July 18, 1946, the ship stopped in Tokyo Bay to refuel, but no-one was allowed off the ship. Then, it was on to Seattle, Washington where the ship arrived on July 31, 1946. La Mar left from Seattle on a troop train for Ft. George G. Meade, Maryland and was discharged on August 8, 1946 as a Sergeant.

La Mar's World War II awards include:

- Army Occupation (Japan) Medal
- Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon
- World War II Victory Ribbon

Over a year later, La Mar decided to return to military service and reenlisted on December 16, 1947. He was sent to Ft. George G. Meade, Maryland for reassignment. He was assigned as a draftsman for top secret work. When the top secret project was completed, he was reassigned to the Offices of the Second Army Engineers, who were responsible for acquiring and distributing maps for all the army bases in the Second Army area which encompassed most of the United States East of the Mississippi. He was discharged from active-duty on May 10, 1949 and entered the Army Reserve.

He was recalled to active duty from the Army Reserve to serve in the Korean War and was discharged on January 12, 1951. His total service in the military was four years, five months and sixteen days.

La Mar attended the Lancaster, Pennsylvania Theological Seminary for three years, starting in the fall of 1953 and graduating in May, 1956. He pastored various United Church of Christ congregations for fifty one years before retiring.

He married Beatrice Schantz of Reading, Pennsylvania on October 21, 1944 who passed on May 1, 2001. They had three children. La Mar has seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. In 2006, he married Marti Mordecai Langwell and they attend the First Baptist Church.