

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution

Proudly Honor our July 2012



Marion W. West

Sponsored by:

**Poplar Bluff
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Marion W. West was fourteen when WWII began. His family farmed, and being the youngest of five brothers, he was needed at home. Marion was not drafted due to age and farm worker classification.

By the Korean War, Marion, age twenty-five, was drafted, and completed his basic training at Ft. Lewis, Washington. After basic, he was assigned to the motor pool, but soon found out he was being shipped to Korea. Just as he was in line about to board ship, an officer asked if he could operate a crane. He simply stated, "Yes, I can operate anything you want." Marion was pulled from the line, and that simple statement gave him the opportunity to operate a crane seven days a week for the next two months. He helped build a road to an observatory being built in response to threats from the Cold War. Upon completion of the road, Marion received orders to go to Louisiana, where he loaded equipment. From there, he was transferred to Germany with the 3rd Armored Division. While in Germany, his unit was ordered to guard an abandoned Panzer tank depot. Most of the time, Marion was a Colonel's driver. but no matter where his work assignment, he was always considered the "old man" of the outfit until his discharge in 1957.

One of his interesting stories from time in Germany happened when he was going by a farmhouse where he saw several young girls working in the garden. They were turning the soil by hand, even though a piece of equipment was nearby. Through conversation, Marion found out they were out of gas. Marion had a five gallon can of gas, so he gave it to them. Ten years later Marion and his wife Mescal went to Germany and visited that same farmhouse. He was delighted that the girls remembered him and gave him a warm welcome. Over the years that same helping hand has worked extra jobs to help his family and friends.

Marion has been a wonderful help to his community by financially putting up money to purchase forty acres to build a community college. He gets a great joy knowing there are thousands of students that have and will graduate from the school he so graciously helped get its start. Marion and his wife sit on several boards, and are active in community betterment. Pulling family together, supporting his community, and an abiding faith in God keep this patriot content in a country he helped protect, and continues to support.