



Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution
Patriot of the Month
January, 2013



Mabel Stamm

Sponsored by:

Webster Groves Chapter DAR

Mabel Stamm stood up for women's rights long before women knew about rights. She graduated from Colchester High School in Illinois, when most females did not go beyond grammar school. She attended a six-month business course at Quincy, Illinois, Business School and worked briefly in the Carthage College in Illinois.

In 1943, she did a very bold thing, she enlisted in the United States Coast Guard, which at that time, was thought of as a domain for men. She was sent to Florida for Basic Training and was trained to swim in the ocean until she broke a toe and completed her training in a pool on the military base. Mable credits the discipline she learned stayed with her all her life. The training was rigorous

and included very long hours. Upon completion of basic she was sent to St. Louis, MO, where she remained throughout her military service. Women were not sent to fight at that time so her work was mostly secretarial. Women did not receive medals and very little recognition. However, she worked hard and progressed from the rank of Seaman Apprentice to Yeoman Third Class, to Second Class, then to Yeoman First Class.

After completing three memorable years in the Coast Guard she became employed by Union Electric where she met and married Peter Hellberg. They have a daughter and a son. While the children were young, Mabel was a stay-at-home-mom, then held various secretarial jobs as they became older.

Once Mabel and Peter became retired they traveled twice to Hawaii and then to the Philippines where Peter served when he was on active duty. Peter died after 47 years of marriage. Mabel became an active member of the Women's Coast Guard Organization and attended yearly meetings all over the United States. She is the last surviving member.

Later Mabel married Fred Stamm, and when he passed away she moved to a retirement center. She is a very polished petite lady that keeps up on world events and participates in many of the activities where she lives. She was recognized by Missouri Governor Holden a few years ago.

The Webster Groves Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution are proud to nominate Mabel Stamm as Patriot of the Month for her dedication and service to our country.