Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution
Patriot of the Month
May 2013

Vernon Elder

Sponsored by:

Rhoda Fairchild Chapter DAR

Vernon "Sonny" Elder was born and raised in Carthage, Missouri. In October 1967, he enlisted in the U. S. Army at the age of nineteen. He completed basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. From there he went to Fort Bliss, El Paso, Texas for advanced training in Nike/Hercules missile radar control. As a radar control operator, he was stationed at Fort Walters, Texas, and then later, at a missile site near Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. His next assignment took him back to Fort Leonard Wood where he worked as a supply sergeant.

In April 1971, he received orders for Viet Nam. During his one year assignment in Viet Nam he was stationed at Da Nang and then Pleiku. He had various duty assignments in transportation, security, communications, and supply with the 17th Air Cavalry and the 57th Assault Helicopter Company.

Sonny shares that even though he was not sent out on missions the base was shelled every night and everyone was on constant watch.

Sonny returned stateside in April 1972, to Fort Polk, Louisiana. There he completed his active duty commitment as a supply sergeant for a basic training company. Following his honorable discharge in April 1973 he served for two years in the National Guard in Texas and Missouri. Sonny completed eight and one half years of military service.

Sonny and his wife Gloria have been married for forty-three years. They have a daughter, one son, and nine grandchildren. He was head custodian at the Carthage R-9 Schools for twenty years upon retirement. Sonny and Gloria have been members of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and Sonny has been Chaplain of the VFW Post 2590.

The members of the Rhoda Fairchild Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution are pleased to honor Vernon "Sonny" Elder as the MSSDAR Patriot of the Month and extend their gratitude and thanks for his service to our country.