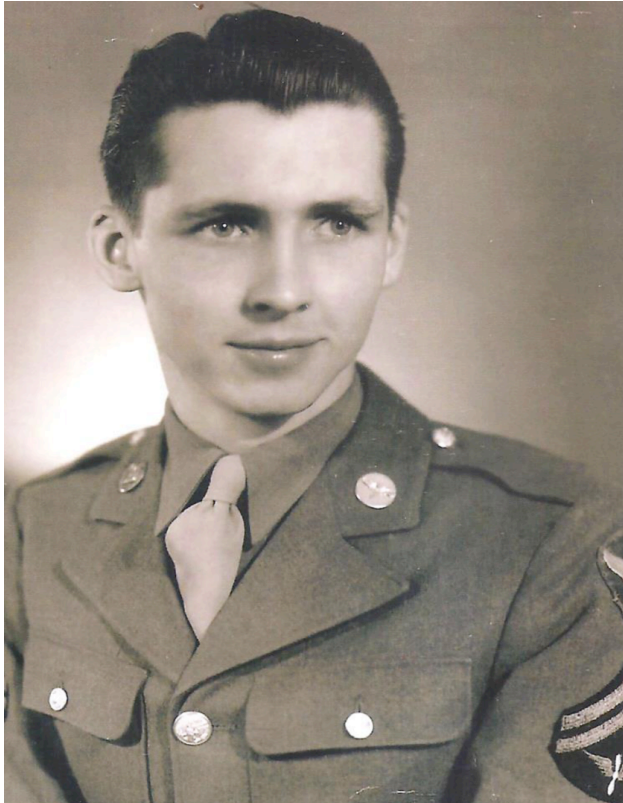




**Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution
Patriot of the Month
December 2013**



Gerald Gentry

Sponsored by

Major Molly Chapter

Gerald Gentry was born on the family farm near Mill Grove, Missouri, in 1921. He was the eldest child of William Lafayette and Amy Mae Fair Gentry. Educated at the Star Country School, and Princeton High School, where he graduated in 1938. While in high school, Gerald was active in football and track. Following graduation he attended Chillicothe Business College, graduating in 1942.

In June 1942, Gerald was inducted into the United States Army Air Force at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Following basic training at Sheppard Field, Texas, he went to Peterson Army Air Base at Colorado Springs, Colorado, where his unit was prepared to deploy in July 1943. For the next two years he served as a Master Sergeant in the Pacific Theatre. His unit was one of the first to land in Japan in the fall of 1945, following the bombing of Nagasaki and Hiroshima.

Gerald and Margaret Helen Puffer were married in May 1942. They lived a short time in Hannibal, and Brookfield, Missouri, where Gerald was employed with the Burlington Railroad. When he was discharged in December 1945 he returned to work for the railroad in St. Louis. In 1948 they purchased a farm where they operated a Grade A dairy for more than twenty years. Margaret owned and operated a flower shop for twenty-six years. They have three daughters, Fleeta Geraldine, Jolene Margaret, and Joyce Elaine. They are active members of the First Baptist Church. Gerald has been a long-time member of the American Legion, VFW, and Masonic Lodge. He has been an avid fan of local athletics, ran chains for the football team, coached American Legion baseball teams, and umpired local baseball and softball games. In 1986 the new baseball field in their community was named "Gentry Field" in honor of Gerald. He also loved to bowl and spent many hours golfing at the local country club where he was on the board of directors.

The members of the Major Molly Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution are proud to nominate Gerald Gentry as Patriot of the Month for his service to our country.