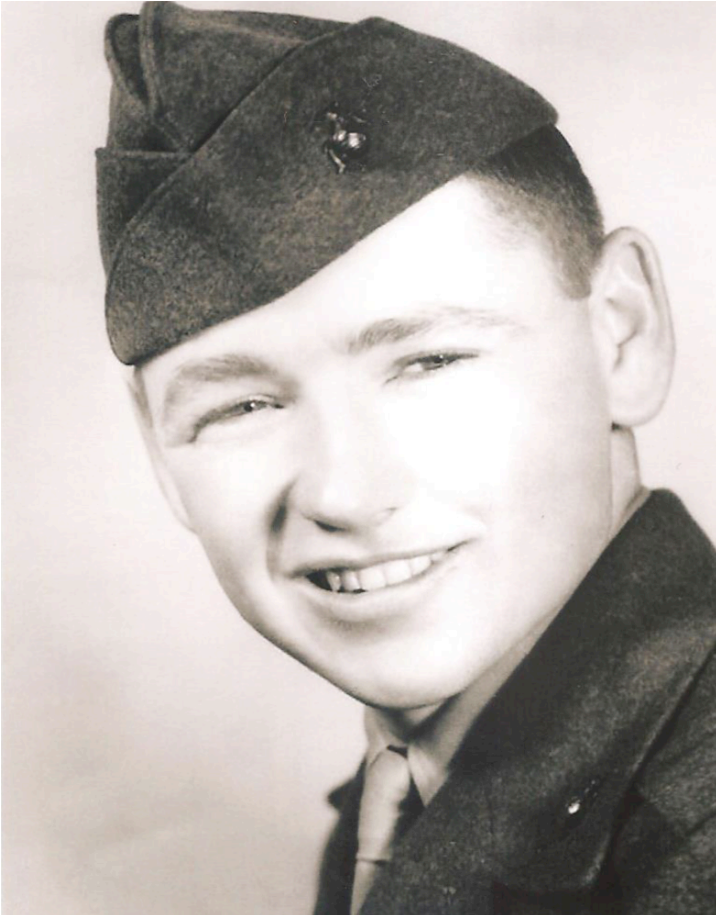




**Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution  
Patriot of the Month  
December 2013**



**Ralph W. Parker**

Sponsored by

**Major Molly Chapter**

Ralph W. Parker was born in Carroll County, Missouri, in 1931. He attended high school in Bosworth, Missouri, where he graduated in 1949. Ralph worked on his father's farm before joining the United States Marine Corps on March 20, 1951. He went through boot camp at San Diego, California, then to Treasure Island, California, for electronic maintenance schooling. He was sent back to San Diego for High Echelon Radio Repair School. Ralph was sent to Norfolk, Virginia, where he was assigned to Troop Training Unit Atlantic, then to a Staff College Instructor School, Camp Lejuene, North Carolina, and back to Little Creek Naval Amphibious Base. He was also a Trainer at West Point, Annapolis, and with the Reserves.

During his time on active duty Ralph volunteered to be part of the first troops to be moved ship to shore by helicopter in timed maneuvers. The military wanted to see how it would work to move troops by helicopter. He was actually aboard ship for a few days in the Atlantic. He was honorably discharged on March 19, 1954 with the rank of Staff Sergeant.

Awards and Medals Ralph earned during his service are the Good Conduct Medal, Sharp Shooter Medal, Korean Campaign Ribbon and received a letter of commendation for working during a hurricane.

Ralph and Shirley Stottler were married on January 10, 1954, and will be celebrating their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in January 2014. They have two daughters, Pam and Penny, four grandchildren, and ten great-grandchildren.

In civilian life, Ralph has been a farmer and done plumbing work. He is a Life Time Member of the American Legion.

The members of the Major Molly Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution wish to extend their gratitude and thanks to Ralph Parker for his service to our country.