



**Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution  
Patriot of the Month  
January 2014**



**Reese Warden**

Sponsored by

**Elk Horn Prairie Chapter**

Reese Warden was born in Trail, Oklahoma, but graduated from high school in Niangua, Missouri, and earned a basketball scholarship to Central Missouri State University, Warrensburg, MO. He attended one year before being drafted into the Army Air Corps in November 1943. He was trained as a Lab Tech stationed in Tucson, Arizona, and Salt Lake City, Utah. He then volunteered for the infantry, and was transferred to Fort Gruber, Oklahoma, where he became a combat medic. Reese was in the 42<sup>nd</sup> Rainbow Division, 222 Medical Detachment in the European Theater. He was wounded in Germany where he wound up treating himself along with seven of his fellow soldiers. He was awarded the Purple Heart. On April 29, 1945, the 42<sup>nd</sup> Rainbow was the first into Dachau Concentration Camp. This was a time Reese will never forget.

Reese was honorably discharged in January 1946, went home, and married his high school sweetheart, Roberta Cruise of Strafford, Missouri. They had three children, six grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, four step-children, nine step-grandchildren, and seventeen step-great-grandchildren. He was a farmer, truck driver, and worked in the carbon black, plastics and smelter plants in Oklahoma and Texas. Reese moved his family to Missouri and bought a milk route where he hauled milk for thirty years.

Reese was pleased to go on the Honor Flight from Springfield, Missouri, to Washington, D. C. in 2011. He is a member of the Sunset Church of Christ and has belonged to the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association for twenty-eight years. He and his son, Tim, have pitched together all those years. At age ninety-one, this year, Reese pitched in the Missouri State Horseshoe Tournament.

The members of the Elk Horn Prairie Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution are proud to nominate Reese Warden as Patriot of the Month and wish to extend their thanks for his service to our country.