



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



Francis R. Hillebrand

Sponsored by

Warrensburg Chapter



Francis R. Hillebrand was born in Wisconsin in 1935 growing up on the family farm. He joined the United States Army at the age of eighteen in 1953. Francis went through basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, MO and advanced training at Fort Bliss, Texas. He was sent to Korea for 16 months as a forward observer on the DMZ. His enlistment was up in 1956. He earned his GED then enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1956. He smilingly relates, he joined the Air Force simply because the Army Recruiter was absent that day. Francis became a radio technician and worked with cryptographic transmitters serving at bases located in Yakoto, Japan, McCellan Air Force Base, CA, Viet Nam, and Germany. Francis retired in 1976 after 23 years of service.

While serving his country Francis earned the Army Good Conduct Medal, the Korean Defense Medal, an Air Force Outstanding Unit Commendation with 4 Oak Leaf Clusters, the Air Force Good Conduct Medal with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters, the Viet Nam Service Medal, and the Missouri Viet Nam Service Award.

Francis met and married his wife, Toshiko in Japan. They have one son, Joseph born in Japan one daughter, Karen born in California, and one grandchild. They returned to Japan in 1964 to visit family and attend the Summer Olympics. In civilian life he became an over-the-road trucker. He belongs to the Catholic Church, the American Legion, and several Recreational Vehicle Organizations. At present Francis spends a lot of time volunteering at the Missouri Veterans Home in Warrensburg.

The members of the Warrensburg Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution are proud to nominate Francis R. Hillebrand as Patriot of the Month and wish to extend thanks for his service to our country.