

# Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution



## Patriot of the Month

July 2015



**Robert E. Beller**

*Sponsored by:*

**John Sappington Chapter**



Upon graduation from Michigan State University and ROTC, Robert entered the U.S. Army in June 1969 as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. at Ft. Benning, Georgia. After graduation from Airborne School, he served with the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division from October 1969 until March/April 1970. He went to Vietnam in June 1970 and served as a platoon leader, a Battalion Personnel Officer (S-1) and a Civil Affairs Officer (S-5). From June 1971 to June 1972, he was a Company Commander of a basic training company at Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri. Robert received the Airborne Wings, Combat Infantry Badge, National Defense Ribbon, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, the Air Medal, and two Bronze Stars for Meritorious Service. He was discharged with an honorable discharge on June 23, 1972, at Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri.

Robert worked for the United States Department of Veterans Affairs from May 1973 until he retired in June 2004. He began as a Veterans Benefits Counselor and finished as Supervisor of Vocational Rehabilitation in the St. Louis Regional Office. Robert co-authored the first memorial for Vietnam Veterans ever placed in a National Cemetery in Springfield, Missouri, in 1979. He has been a volunteer in various veteran projects since 1980. For about 20 years, he has participated in the St. Louis Homeless Veterans Stand Down, a program which provides a variety of services to homeless veterans. He currently works with the Alternative Hospice program in providing veterans in nursing homes and hospice care with special recognition of their service, outings to the Soldiers Memorial as well as other locations, and personal talks with veterans who cannot discuss experiences with family members. Robert is a life member of the St. Louis Area Veterans Consortium, the Disabled American Veterans, the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division Association, and the Vietnam Veterans of America.

Robert's father, Howard, and mother, Helen, and brothers, Don and Ed, are deceased. He has a son, Jeremy, who has a family. His daughter, Sherry, is in the Army and has served two tours in Afghanistan.

The Daughters of the John Sappington Chapter DAR are proud to nominate Robert E. Beller as Patriot of the Month and extend their gratitude for his patriotic service and commitment to our great nation.