

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution



Patriot of the Month

February 2016



Eugene Ganz

Sponsored by:

St. Louis-Jefferson Chapter



Mr. Ganz was born in Ballwin, Missouri, on April 1, 1933. He was drafted into the Army on August 1, 1944, at Jefferson Barracks. He was trained as a rifleman. He was assigned to the 1st Infantry 18th regiment and transferred to Belgium and Germany. He was assisting a gunner using an 81 mm mortar under enemy fire when he was struck in the hand and upper leg. These injuries put into the hospital from March 2, 1945, through May 1, 1945. He underwent a lot of pain and rehabilitation during that time for which he received the Purple Heart. He also loss some hearing when an enemy shell caught in a tree above the men and exploded there.

When Mr. Ganz overcame his injuries he was returned to Nuremberg, Germany, to be trained for another military job. There he supervised SS Nazi Officers who had been captured from all over the continent. The prisoners were taught to work with base supplies. Mr. Ganz said the only requirement for them was that one of the group had to speak some English so they could communicate better.

Additional medals that Mr. Ganz received: One bronze star for his meritorious service in the European Theater and two stars for his part in the Battle of the Bulge and the WW II Victory. He also received the Good Conduct Medal. He was honorably discharged on December 6, 1945, at Jefferson Barracks.

Mr. Ganz was married twice, and to his second wife for over fifty years. After his service he owned an insurance office for forty-five years. His clients always asked him if he could do their taxes. Thus, after training he also supplied this service to his clients. He worked sixteen years as a heavy equipment operator laying more miles of concrete than he could even remember. Mr. Ganz became a member of the Battle of the Bulge Chapter in St. Louis, Missouri, and has many times spoken to school children about the facts of war and how to properly conduct themselves. He taught that one should follow rules that are given to them to be better citizens and make our country a good place to live.

The Daughters of the St. Louis-Jefferson Chapter DAR are proud to nominate Eugene Ganz as Patriot of the Month and extend their gratitude for his patriotic service and commitment to our great nation.