

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution



Patriot of the Month

February 2016



Harold Headrick

Sponsored by:

Armstrong Chapter



Harold graduated from Moberly High School in May 1953, enlisted in the Marine Corps and left for boot camp in San Diego, California on July 7, 1953. After boot camp, he returned home on leave, then went to Camp Pendleton, California, for Infantry Training and Amphibious Warfare Training. He returned to San Diego and boarded a troop ship for Korea, landed at Inchon, and moved inland to Ascom City, a dispersing point. He was assigned to 1st Combat Service Group in Engineer Supply and went by train to Masan to pack up equipment and supplies to ship North to the demilitarized zone. After the equipment and supplies were shipped North, he moved to Ascom City where he worked and after 15 months, he boarded a ship for the US and landed at Treasure Island, California.

He came home on leave and married his high school sweetheart, Patricia A. Johnson of Middle Grove, Missouri on May 29, 1955. He and his bride returned to Camp Pendleton, California, still in the Supply Field. He became a criminal investigator in 1959 and two years later, he was sent to Barstow, California, the West Coast Supply Depot, as an investigator for two years. In August 1964, he received orders to go to San Diego, as a drill instructor for two years. As a platoon commander, he graduated for honor platoons. He was commissioned a 2nd lieutenant and transferred to the 3rd Marine Division in Vietnam in 1966 where he was assigned as the detachment commander and provost marshal for a string of combat bases along the DMZ where Hue, Phu Bai, Quang Tri, Dong HA and Khe Sanh. Dong Ha and Khe Sanh were within range of North Vietnam rocket and artillery, and they were frequently attacked. Before leaving Vietnam in 1967 he was promoted to 1st lieutenant. He had orders for Headquarters Marine Corps in Washington, D.C., where he was assigned to a group that developed and wrote the Occupational Field for the military Police Field for the Marine Corps. He then served as a criminal investigation officer for procedures throughout the US. In August 1971, he was transferred to Camp LeJeune, and served as operation officer at the Provost Marshal Office. On July 12, 1973, he retired as a captain and returned to Moberly to live.

Harold received the following awards while in the military: Navy Achievement Medal with "V," Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device, Vietnam Service Medal with two stars, Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with palm, Korea Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal with two stars, National Defense Medal with one star, United Nations Service Medal with one star, M-1 Rifle Marksmanship Expert Badge and Pistol Marksmanship Expert Badge.

Harold graduated from Moberly Area Community College in 1981. In 1975, he went to work for the Missouri State Board of Healing Arts in investigating complaints against physicians and worked in that position for 21 years before retiring in 1996. During these years, he had also, become involved in farming and raising beef cattle. About 2003, he put most of the tillable land into the Conservation Reserve Program and sold the cattle. Since then, he and his wife have traveled extensively on tours to 25 foreign countries and all 50 states.

Harold is a life member of Moberly VFW Post 2654, actively involved with the Moberly Veterans Flag Project, served on the boards of the Eastern Randolph Rural Fire Department and the Randolph County Cattlemen.

Harold and Patricia will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary in May 2015. They have four children, 10 grandchildren, 10 step grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren and 10 step-grandchildren.

The members of the Armstrong Chapter DAR wish to extend their gratitude and thanks to Harold Headrick for his service to our great country.