

**Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution
Proudly Honors**

Patriot of the Month

March 2017



**Freddie S. Thompkins,
Jr.**

United States Air Force

**Sponsored by:
Independence Pioneers
Chapter**



Freddie S. Thompkins, Jr. was born into a military family at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. He enlisted in the United States Air Force at Kansas City, Missouri, in January 1956, after graduating from Leavenworth High School, where he was a cadet in the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps. Upon completion of basic training at Parks Air Force Base, California, and technical training at Francis E. Warren Air Force Base in Cheyenne, Wyoming, he was stationed at Incirlik Air Force Base in Adana, Turkey, and later at Altus Air Force Base, Oklahoma, as a Communications Center Specialist. He was honorably discharged from the 11th Operations Squadron, Strategic Air Command, at Altus Air Force Base, in January 1960.

Freddie was among the first generation of African Americans to serve in the armed services after integration by President Harry S. Truman in 1948. His military service provided him with specialized job skills, and enabled him to later earn a college degree. It also provided an opportunity to visit parts of the world he would not have otherwise seen, such as Turkey, Libya, Bermuda, and Greece.

After his discharge from the Air Force, Freddie entered public service as a civilian for the United States Strategic Communication Command in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and was later selected for a position with the United States Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in Kansas City, Missouri. Throughout his career as a public servant, he received many awards for his

dedication and performance, while also gaining a degree from Columbia College. He was the first African American to serve as manager of a major FAA air traffic facility in the Central Region -- the National Communications Center, located in south Kansas City, Missouri. Peak employment was between 110-120 employees at this facility which processed and relayed via high-speed computers weather data, notices to airmen, and flight plans (national and international) for public, commercial and military flights.

Freddie's father was a Buffalo Soldier, serving in the 10th Cavalry of United States Army at Fort Leavenworth. Freddie's ancestor, Kelly Fields, served in the 83rd United States Colored Troops, Kansas Infantry, for the Union Army during the Civil War, 1863-1865. Freddie had one sister.

Freddie and his wife, Linda, have been married more than 20 years.

Independence Pioneers Daughters are proud and honored to recognize Freddie S. Thompkins, Jr., as Patriot of the Month for his dedication and outstanding patriotic service to our great nation.