

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution
Proudly Honors

Patriot of the Month



April 2017



Mary Lou McCarty

United States Army

Sponsored by:
Missouris Shoal
Chapter

Mary entered the United States Army in 1967. She served at Fort McClellan, Anniston, Alabama; Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas; William Beaumont Medical Center; Fort Bliss, El Paso, Texas; Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri; Sandia Army Base, Albuquerque, New Mexico; Fort Belvoir, Virginia; Fort Leavenworth, Kansas; and Tripler Army Medical Center, Honolulu, Hawaii. Mary trained to serve as a nurse in the Medics. While in Hawaii she helped take care of the wounded servicemen returning from Vietnam.



Mary felt that working in the Medics talking care of wounded servicemen and later helping take care of ill people was very rewarding. She felt this was a way of being very helpful to them and helping them on their way to become healthy again.

One serviceman Mary took care of at Tripler Army Medical Center had lost both of his legs when he stepped on a land mine while serving in Vietnam. He was also suffering from depression as he thought his wife would not love him and stay with him when he returned home. Mary talked to him and told him this was not true as she was sure that his wife would continue to love him and stay beside him. After he had been fitted with prostheses for both legs, Mary saw them and he and his wife seemed very happy. He thanked Mary for helping him through his depression.

Some of the Army Medical Bases had a pediatric ward for children of the servicemen. At one time she was working in the Pediatrics Ward, at William Beaumont Medical Center when a boy about twelve years of age was admitted. He had all four limbs broken. While caring for him, Mary became a very close friend to him. After she was transferred to another Army Base she never heard from him as to how long it took for him to recover or when he was able to be discharged from the hospital.

While serving at Fort Belvoir, Mary took care of a one year old child who had leukemia. Mary had to draw blood from her finger for tests and this made her very afraid; however, Mary would visit with her each time and said eventually the child became more relaxed and would even smile when she would approach her. The child's parents were very sad to have their child suffer from this terminal cancer and they were also afraid that they could not have more children. Mary lost contact with this family for several months and when she did see them again she found out this child had passed away; however, later her parents were blessed with a baby boy.

Mary was awarded the Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Medal, Two Letters of Accommodations w/medals, and the Marksmen Badge using the M-16 weapon. She was discharged in San Francisco, California.

While serving in the Army, Mary trained to be a nurse in the Medics; however, after her discharge civilians would not recognize her military training. Therefore, she worked in a boarding house, cleaning for a while and then in a nursing home taking care of people and distributing medications to them.

Mary's mother had terminal cancer and she took care of her for about three months before she passed away. In her family Mary was the youngest of three girls, one a full sister and one a half-sister. Mary's full sister died at ten years of age from cancer.

Mary is living in a Veterans home where she enjoys socializing with the other veterans, the people who work there, and visitors. She is a member of her local American Legion Post.

Missouris Shoal Daughters are very honored and proud to recognize Mary Lou McCarty as Patriot of the Month for her dedication and patriotism to our great nation.