

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution Proudly Honors

Patriot of the Month

May 2017



Jill Payton Brown

United States Army

Sponsored by:
Alexander Doniphan
Chapter



Jill Payton Brown enlisted in the United States Army in November 1999, not long after graduating from high school. Jill and a school friend decided to postpone going on to college and instead, opted to enter the military after attending a job fair where they learned about the Army's "Buddy Program 99." This program, which encouraged friends/buddies to enlist together, thereby also offered them the opportunity to select their first duty station together. Jill and her friend thought this was a huge drawing card. It turned out, however, that Jill would be on a solo mission as her friend decided not to pursue military service. Jill's father, an Air Force and Army Vietnam veteran himself, mentored and helped his daughter select her Military Occupation Specialty which was an Avionic Mechanic.

Upon completion of basic training, Jill got her first choice of duty stations which was Fort Carson, Colorado. Jill served her entire enlistment time at Fort Carson, with the exception of her deployment to Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Jill was only one of five women in her avionic mechanic's class and as time progressed, she would go on to be the only female in her platoon at Fort Carson and during her deployment. Jill was her medivac unit's Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) Prevention Leader and their Sanitation NCO; both jobs meant she was responsible for approximately 200 servicemen in her unit. Jill's primary responsibility and job duties were to help insure the everyday readiness for the 15 Army medivac helicopters of her unit.

Jill's unit started prepping for overseas deployment in early 2003. Her unit's first two weeks were spent in Kuwait where they unloaded helicopters and prepared for duty in Tikrit. Eventually, the unit

went on to serve in Alasad. Jill's platoon faced nightly mortar fire but she said that fortunately her unit did not face a direct hit. Eight members of Jill's unit lost their lives. She also faced the personal tragedy of losing her fiancée in a helicopter assault in Afghanistan. When asked what her most memorable experience was, she said it was an evening in which her unit feared they were in the midst of a gas attack. Thankfully, it turned out to be that a nearby oil field had caught fire, whereby the resulting residual fumes enveloped their camp. Jill said this was the scariest experience of her life and momentarily, she and her fellow servicemen thought it was going to be life ending for them.

Awards, medals and citations that Jill earned while serving our country include: Army Service Ribbon, NCO Professional Development, Iraq Campaign Medal, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, and Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.

In May 2005, Jill, having returned to Fort Carson, Colorado, received a medical discharge because of a back injury that would not allow her to continue her service as an avionic mechanic without risk to her safety and well-being. Jill remained in Colorado and attended college. She ultimately decided to return home and in 2010 she graduated with a degree in elementary education. She began her teaching career at an elementary school in a quaint, historic river town. Today, Jill teaches 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders in the second smallest school district in her state. The elementary school is fully accredited and boasts a current enrollment of 19 students.

Jill is the proud wife of Damian and they have one daughter that attends the small elementary school. Jill enjoys volunteering in extracurricular activities in the quaint, historic river town. Two of her favorite activities with her daughter are Girl Scouts and cheerleading.

Alexander Doniphan Daughters are proud to nominate Jill Payton Brown as Patriot of the Month and extend their gratitude for her patriotic service and commitment to our great nation.