

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution
Proudly Honors

Patriot of the Month



June 2017



Lorin
Groom, Jr.

United States
Air Force

Sponsored by:
Blue Springs
Chapter



Lorin O. Groom, Jr. was born in a small town in Northwest Missouri. Times were tough on the farm and at the urging of a friend, he decided to enlist in the United States Air Force at the age of 20. In December 1951, Lorin, the friend, and Lorin's family drove to Kansas City, Missouri. Lorin had never been to a big city like Kansas City before and this was the start of his travel. Sworn into the United States Air Force, he began basic training at Sheppard Air Force Base near Wichita Falls, Texas. Upon completion he was transferred to Francis E. Warren Air Force Base in Cheyenne, Wyoming for supply school. Graduating in May 1952, he was assigned to the 75th Air Depot Wing (ADW) and stationed at Kelly Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

New orders came in December 1952, and the 75th ADW was bussed to Corpus Christi and boarded the *USS General W. H. Gordon (AP-117)* his transportation to Korea. After passing through the Panama Canal they were allowed to dock at Balboa to be served at the Navy Mess Hall, but no one told the Mess Hall and it was closed! Twenty five hundred troops found food elsewhere on the base, re-boarded a few hours later and were off to Pusan, Korea. After 29 days at sea including stormy weather with up to 30-35 foot waves, they arrived at Pusan in January 1953. They were

transferred to three Landing Ship, Tanks (LST's) that took them to the K10 Chinhae Airfield, Chinhae, Korea. The LST's were not able to reach the shoreline and they had to wade through the cold water to reach land. The trip from Corpus Christi was an experience he will never forget!

Stationed at K10 Chinhae Airfield until late March 1953, he was transferred to the 6400th ADW at Far East Materiel Command (FEAM) Tachikawa Airfield, Japan, then a few days later to Showa Army Base a few miles away. On June 18, 1953, a United States Air Force Douglas C-124 Globemaster II aircraft crashed three minutes after takeoff killing all 129 people on board. Lorin was there an hour after the crash. Sadly the Tachikawa Air disaster was one for the deadliest air disasters ever.

Serving at the Showa Army Base until October 1953, he flew on a C-124 Globemaster Cargo plane to FEAM Com K-2, Taegu, Korea to spend a night. He next boarded a steam locomotive to Chinhae, South Korea where he served until May 1954. His overseas duties were nearing an end and Lorin was sent back to the United States.

He arrived at Malmstrom Air Force Base, near Great Falls, Montana, in 1954. He served the remainder of his service there until December 1955. Lorin also served our country for four years in the Air Force Reserve. For his service he received the United Nations Service Medal, Korean Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Good Conduct Service Medal, and the Syngman Rhee Citation.

Lorin met and married Janice while they both were attending their state university. They have a son and a daughter which have blessed them with four grandchildren, one passing as an infant. Upon his graduation from the university, he began his career with the John Deere Company. Lorin retired after 25 years of service and continued part-time assignments with the John Deere Company until 2005.

Lorin is a member of his local American Legion Post where he directs and participates in the Honor Guard. He is a member of the Masonic Lodge, and a lifetime member of the Disabled American Veterans. Janice passed away in 2004 and later he married Doris.

Blue Springs Daughters are proud and honored to recognize Lorin Groom, Jr. as Patriot of the Month for his patriotic service, commitment, and service to our great nation.