

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution
Proudly Honors

Patriot of the Month

September 2017



Mary Carol Hertensteiner

United States Air Force

Sponsored by:
Saint Charles
Chapter

Mary Carol Townsend Hertensteiner entered the United States Air Force at Newark, New Jersey in October, 1957. All ladies, at that time, went to Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas for basic training. Her scores were good enough for entering the medical field.



After a furlough at Christmas, Mary reported back to Lackland for Basic Medical Training. The next assignment was Gunter Air Force Base, Montgomery, Alabama, for Medical Laboratory School.

Mary's final assignment was the Strategic Air Command Headquarters at Offutt Air Force Base, Omaha, Nebraska, as a Medical Laboratory Specialist. One of the incidents that stand out in her mind was when she was drawing blood on an Airman. The Airman went into convulsions and started screaming, ranting and raving. After he quieted down, she learned that he had been a Prisoner of War. Good lesson learned! Before you draw blood, look for a number tattooed on the arm.

Mary was discharged as an Airman Second Class at Offutt Air Force Base. She met her husband, Dick, at Offutt and they were married off base at the church they both attended. Dick had previously served in the Marine Corps and had seen war in the Pacific during World War II on Tinian, Saipan, and Iwo Jima. They have three daughters who followed Mary into the medical profession. They have six grandchildren.

The Air Force provided Mary with a career in the medical laboratory field. Mary entered college and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in 1986 while working and caring for her family. She retired from a large medical center in the Saint Charles area with 38 years of service in the laboratory.

Besides being a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Mary takes an active part in the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, also the Saint Charles Sister Cities, which fosters good will and educational opportunities for students who visit Germany, and her local County Historical Society, where she has taught genealogy. She is a member of the Friends of the Library and enjoys helping with book drives.

Saint Charles Daughters are honored to recognize Mary Carol Hertensteiner as Patriot of the Month for her patriotism and dedicated service to our great nation.