

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution Proudly Honors

Patriot of the Month



October 2017



Bernard Schanzmeyer

United States Army

Sponsored by:
Jane Randolph Jefferson
Chapter



Bernard was drafted into the United States Army in October, 1950. He was sent to Camp Polk, Louisiana for basic training. In February, 1951, he boarded a troop ship to Japan. In March, he arrived in Pusan, Korea, and was then by train sent to the headquarters of G Company, 19th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, just below the 38th parallel.

He was assigned to the 3rd Platoon as a rifleman. April 10th was his first day of combat. The Platoon's job was to re-take hills and mountains that were occupied by the North Koreans and Chinese. Almost every day they would have several boys in their outfit killed and others wounded. During the Chinese spring offensive of April 22nd, the Chinese pushed them back about 60 miles to the Han River on the outskirts of Seoul. They did 55 days on line, in continuous combat, without any relief. On August 19th he was promoted to Sergeant and also got the job of squad leader.

In September he had a chance to move to Headquarters Company of the 3rd Battalion as their Company Clerk. He thinks this was a really good break for him and probably saved his life. They were on the move a lot and were located along with the artillery outfits about a mile from the enemy lines. He lived in a tent, slept on a cot, had three hot meals a day and a hot shower as often as he wanted. Quite often he had incoming artillery fire and snipers but it was like Heaven compared to what he had to do before. His main job was to prepare and type the "Daily Morning Reports," which are like a Personnel and Activity record of the Company.

In December his rotation came through. He was sent from Inchon, Korea to Camp Mower, Sasebo, Japan. On Christmas Eve, he boarded a troop ship in Sasebo and arrived in Seattle, Washington about three weeks later. There he was put on a train to Camp Crowder, Missouri. After a 30 day furlough, he reported to Fort Leonard Wood to a basic training outfit as a Platoon Sergeant. He was in charge of one barracks and helped train two groups of recruits for their first eight weeks of basic training. In July, 1952, he was discharged. He was required to serve five years in the Army Reserve before he received his discharge.

Medals Bernard received are: Over Seas Bar, United Nations Service Medal, Korean Service Medal, Combat Infantry Badge, and 4 Bronze Campaign Stars.

Barnard was wounded in his right hip and right knee by shrapnel from an enemy mortar barrage in June 1951. He has requested that he be awarded the Purple Heart Medal. During the time he was with G Company, approximately 6 months, he counted 253 killed or seriously wounded. At that time, a Rifle Company like G Company had about 200 men. That would make the mortality rate about 253%.

Before entering service, Bernard worked as a Parts Manager and Accountant at his family's Chevrolet dealership. A few years after leaving the service, he purchased an interest in the family dealership and over time two additional dealerships were acquired. After several years, the dealerships were sold and along with other family purchased an apartment complex.

Bernard is a member of the Catholic Church, Knights of Columbus and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Bernard married Jean after he returned from Korea and together they have raised five daughters.

Jane Randolph Jefferson Daughters are very proud to recognize and honor Bernard Schanzmeyer as Patriot of the Month for his very patriotic and dedicated service to our great nation.