

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution Proudly Honors



Patriot of the Month

July 2020



John L. Ricklefs

United States Air Force

Sponsored by:
Sarah Lewis Boone
Chapter

John L. Ricklefs enlisted in the United States Air Force Officer Training School, in February 1965. He was assigned to San Antonio, TX, and eventually went to Little Rock, AR as a Deputy Combat Commander on a 4-man crew manning the Titan II (ICBM) Intercontinental Ballistic Missile. His last two years he was Crew Commander. He was honorably discharged in 1969.

One of his most interesting assignments was when he had to carry top secret launch documents from the base to the launch control. He and his four crew members drove a station wagon on 65 Highway, with launch documents around their necks while armed with 38 caliber hand guns. He was charged with protecting the documents "no matter what". Advice he would pass on: "Always protect your senior enlisted men because they will be able to keep you out of trouble."

In civilian life, he published a monthly newsletter for horse enthusiasts for six years and was a member of the KC Board of Trade. In 1994 he and his wife, Marcie, opened Top Flight Kids Learning Center. He also served as an area Campaign Manager for Governor Winthrop Rockefeller of Arkansas, and was an editor and writer for Agricultural Publications in Topeka, KS and KC, MO. He currently serves as deacon at his church, is working on getting his 10-gallon donors pin (160 pints) from the Community Blood Center. (He has given 154 pints) and has been on mission trips to Africa eight times in the last 12 years. He and his wife have six children and 18 grandchildren.

Sarah Lewis Boone Daughters are very proud of Captain John L. Ricklefs and honored to recognize him as Patriot of the Month for his dedicated patriotic service to his community and our great nation.

