

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution Proudly Honors



Patriot of the Month

June 2021

Debra Anderson

United States Army

Sponsored by:
Alexander Doniphan
Chapter



Debra Anderson was elected Quartermaster General of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States on July 27, 2016, at the 117th VFW National Convention in Charlotte, NC, making her the first female veteran to hold the position.

Prior to her election, she held appointed positions as assistant quartermaster general and director of human resources and investment coordinator.

Anderson attended the University of Missouri-Columbia on an ROTC scholarship, where she majored in economics. In May 1980 upon graduation, she was commissioned in the Army as an AG (Human Resources) Second Lieutenant. Her military assignments included Nuremberg/Furth, Germany; Fort Harrison, IN.; Fort Riley, KS; Fort Leavenworth, KS; and Fort McPherson, GA. She deployed as part of the division headquarters with the 1st Infantry Division during Desert Storm in December 1990.

During her 13 years of service, Anderson was awarded the Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal (4), Army Achievement Medal (2), National Defense Service Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal, Army Service Medal, Overseas Service Ribbon, Kuwait Liberation Medal, and Parachutist Badge. Anderson earned a master's degree of science in systems management from the University of Southern California in 1989 and is a graduate of the Army's Combined Arms Services Staff School (CAS3) and Command and General Staff College (CGSC).

Anderson left the Army in 1993 and held a variety of management positions in business from 1993-2007. She joined VFW Post 7356 in Parkville, MO, in 2006 where she maintains her Legacy Life membership and has held the positions of Voice of Democracy chair, junior vice commander, All-American Post commander, trustee and District adjutant. She is also a life member of the VFW Auxiliary and VFW National Home. Debra is currently serving on the U.S. WW1 Centennial Commission, and the memorial park in Washington DC officially opened April 16, 2021.

Debra and her husband Dr. Stephen Bourque, a 20 year Army veteran and professional historian, live in Kansas City, MO. He has published four books and is working on his fifth on military history.

Dealing with conditions during deployment to Desert Storm was the most interesting thing Debra felt she did (or saw) while in service. Debra also participated in parachuting from airplanes during her Army career.

The best advice I received while serving our country was, "Perfection is the enemy of good. Deadlines are important. Late and perfect – no good."

Alexander Doniphan Chapter Daughters are very proud to recognize and honor Debra Anderson as Patriot of the Month for her very patriotic and dedicated service to our great nation.