

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution Proudly Honors



Patriot of the Month

June 2021

James L. Banks
United States Air Force

Sponsored by:
Missouris Shoal
Chapter



James L. Banks entered the service July 1966 and began Basic Training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, TX, which only lasted 28 days. Training was Tech Schools for Jet Mechanics., First Station Bergstrom Air Force Base, Austin, TX, where he was Crew Chief on the F4 Phantom Airplane for 1-1/2 years. Then he was deployed to Udorn, Thailand where he received orders to be attached to a Marines Division to go Vietnam at Hill 55. He was assigned to the Third Marines as a sniper.

James received three Purple Hearts, Vietnam Medals, Good Conduct Medal and other medals.

One meaningful experience he had was when he had to be 100% two out of two times. He carried a 30.06 Winchester and the guy with him carried a M16 Colt. His partners job was to keep the enemy's fire away from James while he was on his way to a crashed helicopter to rescue the pilot. This was 7th Air Calvary Helicopter and was very important for rescue operations in Vietnam.

James was discharged April 1970 at Mountain Home Air Force Base, Mountain Home, Idaho.

In civilian life, James drove a Taystee Bread truck in Kansas City for 22 years; and after moving to Plattsburg, MO he was a Clinton County Deputy Sheriff for 20 years before retiring.

Earlier organizations that James was involved in helping with were the Fall Festival & Parade Coordinator and Students Against Drunk Drivers. James is a member of the Christian Church.

James' wife and supporter, Sally, passed away in 2008. He has two daughters and five grandchildren, all of them living close by, with the longest distance being Liberty, MO. It is a blessing for James to have his family near him.

Missouris Shoal Daughters are very proud of James L. Banks and honored to recognize him as Patriot of the Month for his dedicated patriotic service to his community and our great nation.