

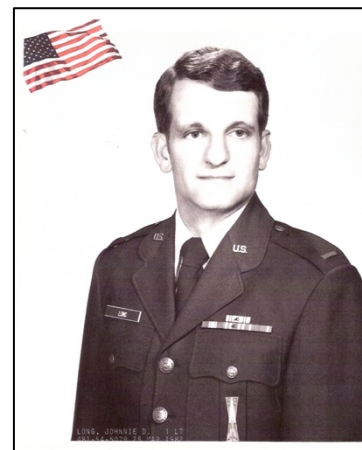
Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution Proudly Honors



Patriot of the Month

August 2021

John Long
United States Air Force



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Saint Charles
Chapter

John Long first enlisted in the US Air Force in 1966 during the Vietnam War, went back in in 1972 and again in 1980. He spent nine years as enlisted and fourteen years as an officer.

He served in Darmstadt, Germany; Luke AFB AZ; Kindsbach, Germany; Duluth, MN; Portland, OR (was in the AF Reserves); Whiteman AFB MO; Vandenburg AFB CA; Robins AFB GA and Scott AFB, IL.

He had many jobs while in the service. At his first duty station, he learned Morse Code even though his first job was as a Non-Morse Intercept Operator which meant that he intercepted messages from the Iron Countries and sent them to the National Security Administration (NSA). On his second tour, he was an Aircraft Control and Warning Operator (sometimes referred to as a Scope Dope as they used a radar screen to track aircraft). He had to learn to write backwards because they sometimes used a plexiglass board and he would be behind it writing-therefore by writing backwards people on the other side could read it. At first, he was assigned to mobile units and then he was transferred to Kindsbach, Germany where he worked in a German World War II bunker which had been remodeled. From the bunker they would monitor aircraft flying from West to East Germany. At his duty station in Duluth, he monitored the Dew Line- or border between the US and Canada.

As an officer, he was a missile launch commander at Whiteman AFB in the silos and responsible for 10 Minutemen Ballistic Nuclear Tipped Missiles. This was a specialized job- pulling alerts- and there was a small cadre of service people who performed this job. He spent four years as a Missile Launch Instructor at Vandenburg AFB and spent four years teaching and preparing other officers to do the Missile Launch Officer job. At Vandenburg AFB, he could hear the shuttle when it landed at Edwards AFB and he could hear and see missile testing launches at there. At Robins AFB he was a Command Post Officer and monitored activities and reacted to situations that involved aircraft or other situations. At Scott AFB, from which he retired, he was in the Current Operation Section as an Action Officer.

An interesting event- he saw a US cargo plane come in for an emergency landing on two wheels (the nose wheel and the wheel under the left wing) and saw the military members jettison their goods. And, he saw the aircraft on the tarmac when the US went to capture Noriega. While stationed at Kindsbach, Mr. Long and his wife drove through East Germany to Berlin, had to stop at several East German stations and had to salute the Russian Guards and have his paperwork reviewed.

In his civilian life, Mr. Long was the Internship Specialist in the Career Development Office of Belleville Area Community College. In the civil service, he worked in the Diplomatic Clearance Section of the Air Mobility Command at Scott AFB. As the supervisor, they obtained clearances for aircraft to fly over or land in foreign countries.

He belongs to the St. Charles Lions Club and is a Mason in a Lodge in Mascoutah, IL. He has been married for 49 years, and is the father of one and grandfather of three.

Saint Charles Daughters are proud to honor and recognize John Long as Patriot of the Month for his patriotism and invaluable service to our great nation.