

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution

Proudly Honors

Patriot of the Month

October 2021

Billy Scott Keeton

United States Army



Sponsored by:
Rachel Donelson
Chapter

Billy "Bill" Scott Keeton was born August 4, 1926 in Bokchito, OK, moving to Springfield MO in 1939. He was a junior at Central High School when he was drafted into the Army at age 18. Thus, he took several courses at Greenwood (private school) so that he could graduate as a junior. His service began on 6 December 1944. Basic training was at Ft. Leavenworth, KS and

Camp Roberts, CA. On 5 May 1945, Bill was sent to Leyte Island in the Philippines. He served in the Field Artillery of the 81st Infantry Division known as the Wildcats. Bill's job was to help load the 98 lb. shells into the Howitzer guns. In July 1945, he was sent to Ormoc and two weeks later, the end of the war was announced. Bill has an old photo album containing many photos from the war and his time in the Army. Among them is a "newspaper"- the 'Wildcat' published by the 81st Infantry 'Wildcat' Division. This newspaper is dated 15, August 1945 with headlines "Japan Quits." It contains the "TEXT OF JAPAN'S SURRENDER." Copy of this newsletter is attached.



In October 1945 following the surrender, Bill was sent to Aomori, Japan to be part of the of Occupied Japan forces. He was then transferred to Sapporo, Hokkaido, Japan where he spent his last 6 months in the Airborne division and served as the company clerk. In a letter to his parents, he shared that he did not like the deep snows in Japan. Bill remarked about the devastation that he saw all over Japan. He was discharged as a Corporeal on 26 November 1946.

Medals that Bill received include Asiatic Pacific Theater Ribbon with one Battle Star, Philippine Liberation Ribbon with one Battle Star, Good Conduct Medal, Army of Occupation Medal, and Victory Medal.

Following his discharge, Bill returned to Springfield and attended Draughn's Business College. He worked for International Harvester for 5 years then spent 38 years with Masters-Jackson as their bookkeeper. Bill and his wife, Barbara, have 2 children, Scott and Julie (Anderson), and 2 grandchildren, Logan and Hannah Anderson. He is an avid Cardinals fan (St. Louis & Springfield), enjoys traveling and Facebook – especially solving complex math problems!

Rachel Donelson Daughters are proud to honor Bill Keeton as a Patriot of the Month and appreciate his patriotism and service to our country.