

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution Proudly Honors



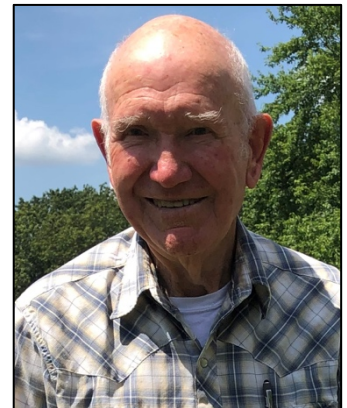
Patriot of the Month

October 2021

Eugene Melvin Simeroth

United States Air Force

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Chapter



Eugene Simeroth grew up in Oklahoma, entering the Air Force in 1951 after a year of service in the Oklahoma National Guard. He spent time in California, Wyoming, Missouri, England, Vietnam, and Thailand during his twenty years of service. He served during both the Korean War and the Vietnam War before retiring on July 31, 1971, with the rank of Master Sergeant. Over the span of his twenty years, Eugene worked as an aircraft mechanic, worked with Atlas missiles, and was also an aircraft inspector with the 23 Field Maintenance Squadron (TAC). He was awarded the Vietnam Service Medal, the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Air Force Good Conduct Medal with two bronze oak leaf clusters and the Air Force Commendation Medal.

He remarked that the Vietnam countryside was beautiful. His job inspecting aircraft required his travel to the air bases in Vietnam. He recalls the view from the air—the assorted colors of the water filled bomb craters as their plane would fly up and out over the ocean to stay out of small arms range before quickly landing.

One memory vivid to Eugene was of a time in which he was working with the Atlas missiles. Part of their responsibilities were to put the missiles through a complete countdown and then abort before the countdown completed. During one such test, the air conditioning in the facility went out. All kinds of bells and whistles and alerts went off, making Eugene think that they had launched a missile, luckily it was only the loss of air conditioning that had prompted the alarms.

Being born in Oklahoma and raised on a farm, Eugene is familiar with all kinds of animals. He has worked with cattle both before and after his military service, and he is proud of his award-winning Brangus breed. He showed dogs while in the service, stating that he couldn't very well show his cattle. He states that he volunteered a lot while in the service as he does now. Eugene is President of the "Friends of the Library" board in his hometown of Summersville and President of the board of the Summersville Senior Center. He and his wife train dogs at their home and grow beautiful flowers that he shares with the Senior Center in town.

Ozark Spring Daughters are proud to honor and recognize Eugene Simeroth as Patriot of the Month for his very patriotic and dedicated service to our great nation.