

# Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution

Proudly Honors

Patriot of the Month

October 2021



## John Hamilton Smith United States Army Air Corps



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Chapter

John "Hammie" Smith was born March 11, 1926 to Homer and Lala Smith in Steele, MO. He grew up spending his summers working on his grandfather's farm which cemented his plan to be a farmer when he grew up. He married Lucille Young right before he started his senior year in high school.

He signed up for the US Army Air Corps his senior year and was ordered to report to Kansas City on his graduation day in May 1944, missing his graduation. Though he wanted to become a pilot he was told he didn't have the hand/eye coordination that was required, so he was assigned to train as a radio operator/gunner on a B17. Before he was able to complete his training, the war in Europe was over and the B17 could not be used in the remaining areas where the war was still going on. He then was reassigned for training on a B29. He and his crew were on their way to the west coast to take possession of their plane when they learned the war was over. Their train stopped in a small town for coal and water and soon after they got off the train, the sirens started blasting and people started yelling "the war is over!". He was in the Army Air Corps for two years, stationed in Sioux City, IA; Amarillo, TX; Yuma, AZ; Pyote, TX and Mountain Home, ID. Most of these sites were for specific training such as radio school or gunnery school.

He never was sent overseas and was soon released from service due to the illness of his father and the expected birth of his first child. He then began a successful farming career at age 20. He was a farmer for over 40 years.

Mr. Smith, a lifelong Democrat, served many years as chairman of the Democratic Committee for Pemiscot County. He was also elected and served three terms as Pemiscot County Associate Judge for the Southern District of Pemiscot County.

As an active member of the Samford Church of Christ, he has spent many hours visiting members of the community who were ill, home-bound or in a nursing home during his retirement.

The Smith's raised two sons – Terry Smith of Steele and David Smith of Branson. Lucille died in 2010 after 67 years of marriage. They have four grandchildren and eight great grandchildren. He is proud of them all!

He continues to live independently in Steele, MO and still owns a portion of his grandfather's farm that has been in the family for over 100 years.

Gayoso Daughters are proud of WW II Veteran, John Hamilton Smith and honored to recognize him as Patriot of the Month for his dedicated patriotic service to his community and our great nation.