

# Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution

Proudly Honors

Patriot of the Month

December 2021

Edgar “Ed” Dick

United States Army



Sponsored by:  
Saint Charles  
Chapter



Mr. Edgar Dick joined the US Army on the delayed entry program in September 1980 and chose Airborne Rangers as his unit of choice. He finished his senior year at Noblesville High School in Indiana and left for basic training on June 17, 1981. He completed Basic/AIT at Ft. Benning, Georgia in August and was sent directly to Airborne Training (Jump School) at Fort Benning. After completing Jump School, he was assigned to the 2nd Ranger Battalion in Fort Lewis, Washington. But before he could truly become part of the Rangers and wear the Black Beret (today, the Rangers wear a Tan Beret), he had to complete the Ranger Indoctrination Program (RIP). RIP turned out to be the toughest training he had up to that point. Much more was yet to come.

After about nine months, he was selected for the 2nd Ranger Battalion Scout Squad and his squad was soon on the way to the Special Operations Training (SOT) School at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, which was run by the Special Forces (Green Berets). Those who had not yet completed Ranger School were slated to attend as soon as possible...with his graduation in March 1983.

They all attended (as a squad) the Military Freefall School (High Altitude, Low Opening – HALO) at Ft. Bragg, NC in July 1983. With this training, they became the spearhead of the 2nd Ranger Battalion on most of their training missions with their squad generally being the first in and last out of any training operation. It was very demanding and exacting work (as well as very exciting work)!

In October 1983, the two Ranger Battalions as well as the Navy Seals and Marines were called upon for Operation Urgent Fury and the rescue of American students and the liberation of the Caribbean island of Grenada. The Rangers' mission was to tactically parachute onto the new airport runway being built on the south end of the island, secure it, and rescue the students at the True Blue college campus. The next day, they also had to rescue students that were at the Grand Anse campus annex (this mission was given directly to his Scout Squad). Finally, on day three, his 2nd Ranger Battalion was given the mission to secure the military training compound at Point Calivigny. Up to this point, they had only minor injuries in his unit. On landing approach of the first wave, one of the UH60 Blackhawks took enemy fire, collided into the adjacent UH60, and both crashed. It is thought that debris from the first

crash also disabled a third UH60 on the other side of the compound. There was only one UH60 left unscathed from the first wave. Unfortunately, they lost three Ranger Buddies due to enemy fire and crashes as well as numerous wounded. He was on the second wave and things looked bleak with three UH60s grounded and burning. The pilots had to adjust their landing zones to clear the downed aircraft and soldiers. His squad started clearing the buildings (our portion of the mission). At one window, a fellow Ranger tossed a hand grenade into the building but it was tossed back out at them. They all dove for cover but he was fragged in the left hip and right thigh. He didn't know how badly he was hit (and was a little afraid to look) so he just went ahead and continued with their mission. The medics cleaned and patched him up well enough (entrance and exit wound only, no broken bones) so he elected to stay the night with his squad as he assumed other Rangers were more seriously wounded and should be medevac out first.

In December that year, he attended the Jungle Expert School in Panama. He wasn't fully healed but was able to complete the school with the help from his medic and daily dressing changes. In May of 1984, he was selected for the HALO parachute evaluation team and spent two months at Ft. Bragg, NC (with other soldiers from special operations units) testing new parachutes for the military to purchase for military freefall jumps. Upon returning to Ft. Lewis, the rest of the unit was training somewhere out of the country and his Ranger Battalion was given one slot for the Special Forces Survival School (SERE)...so on an airplane he went back to Ft. Bragg.

He was finally discharged from active duty, June 17, 1985 after four years of a high-octane military experience! He stayed in the active reserves for another approximately eight years and trained as a drill instructor for a while but was able to join a parachute rigger unit and earn his Rigger Wings. He added those wings to all his others (Airborne, HALO, Egyptian, Belgian, German, and Korean Wings). For his efforts in Operation Urgent Fury, he was awarded the Purple Heart, Army Commendation with Valor, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal and the Combat Infantry Badge and his two Ranger Battalions were awarded the Presidential Unit Citation.

Upon separation from active service, he chose to attend Purdue University starting in Jan 1986. After his first semester, he married his high school sweetheart, Lauri on May 31, 1986! He received a degree in Aeronautical Engineering Technology in Dec. 1989 and started a career at McDonnell Douglas Corp. in 1990 as an F/A-18 Hornet fighter Manufacturing Engineer and have continued there for the past 31 years working on various programs and capacities. He has one son who currently lives in North Carolina finishing up his Forestry Master's degree.

He thanks his savior, Jesus Christ, for helping him in all that he has accomplished and for keeping him from severe injury! He also thanks his wife, Lauri, for all the support and love she has provided over the years.

Saint Charles Chapter Daughters are very proud to honor and recognize Edgar Dick as Patriot of the Month for his patriotism and dedicated service to our great nation.