

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution

Proudly Honors

Patriot of the Month

December 2021

John S. Edgeller

United States Army

United States National Guard



Sponsored by:
Ozark Spring
Chapter

John S Edgeller was inducted into the US Army on September 23, 1944, at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. He was assigned to the 381st Regiment following basic training at Camp Hood, Texas. He recalls leaving from Portland, Oregon after basic training and arriving on the Hawaiian Island of Oahu, where his unit received further instruction in infantry tactics and jungle training. In March 1945, his regiment was assigned to the 96th Infantry Division, and in April the division joined the 10th Army for the Battle of Okinawa, including the fight for Hacksaw Ridge. Following the Battle of Okinawa, the 381st Regiment was sent to the Island of Mindoro in the Philippines to prepare for an attack on Japan. He recalls the daily broadcasts of Tokyo Rose telling the US they would never reach the Japanese shores, but he says that it took a man from Missouri, President Truman, to end the war. He was honorably discharged on November 18, 1946, at Camp Beale, California.

He was awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge, the WWII Victory Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon and the Philippine Independence Ribbon.

In 1948, two years following his discharge from the Army, John joined the National Guard. He spent several years as commander of the local unit in West Plains before being sent to Fort Benning, Georgia, for officers training. He retired in 1986 with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

In 2020, Mr. Edgeller was presented a proclamation by the Missouri Senate honoring his service while in the Army during WWII and in the National Guard until his retirement. He has also been honored with the AMVETS Lifetime Achievement Award.

He and his wife Ruth have been married for nearly 74 years. In his own words, "She is the best thing that ever happened to me." They have four children, two girls and two boys..

Ozark Spring Chapter Daughters are very proud to honor and recognize John S. Edgeller as Patriot of the Month for his patriotism and dedicated service to our great nation.