Missouri State Society
Daughters of the American Revolution
April 15, 2005

PATRIOT OF THE MONTH

Phyllis Jewel Jones Sowle (US Marine Corps 1943-1945)

Phyllis Jewel Jones was born in Cameron, OH. After college, she joined the Marine Corp. She served with the 12th Artillery Battalion from May 24, 1943 to May 30, 1945 at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. She was an office clerk and mimeograph operator, preparing class materials. She met and married fellow Marine, Russell Sowle. They had two children, Dwight and Cheryl.

Russ and Phyllis were married for 35 years before his death in 1978. Phyllis retired from the Lamar County Electric Cooperative in Paris, TX after 24 years of service. She volunteered at L.P. McQuistion Hospital in Paris until moving to Savannah, MO in 1988 to be closer to her daughter and family.

Phyllis has been a valuable asset to the Savannah community by becoming involved in her church, the Savannah Church of Christ, the Beehler Extension Club, the American Legion Auxiliary group, American Legion Dick Munkres Post 287, the Andrew County Museum and Historical Society, the John Griffith Chapter of the DAR, Northwest Missouri Detachment of the Marine Corp League in St. Joseph, and the Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce.

At one time, when the Chamber was without a regular Secretary, Phyllis kept the office open with her volunteer hours. She continues to volunteer on an "as needed" basis, helping with the C of C's Fall and Spring Flea Markets and Platte Purchase Days. She also volunteers at the Andrew County Museum, at the Andrew County fair, and at the Savannah Middle School as a volunteer reader.

She was the recipient of the 1999 SERTOMA Service to Mankind Award and received the 1999 Honorary Chamber of Commerce Award.

Phyllis' daughter, Cheryl Bilby, also a member of John Griffith Chapter, writes that her parents taught her and her brother to have "respect for God, the flag, our country, and all those serving in any branch of the military." She added that her mother's daily activities and habits were a constant example to her as she was growing up. "She always has a smile on her face and a positive attitude."

The John Griffith Chapter is proud to nominate Phyllis Jones Sowle for Patriot of the Month.

Joan Hegeman, Regent