



**Missouri State Society  
Daughters of the American  
Revolution**

## PATRIOT OF THE MONTH

### Vaughn C. Emerson, Col US Army (Ret)



Vaughn Emerson entered the Army in May 1943. A year later he was in Europe, a mortarman in the 95th Infantry Division in Patton's 3rd Army. The 95th became known as "The Iron Men of Metz" due to the hard-fought battle to take that place. Later the Division took part in the "Battle of the Bulge."

After the fall of Germany, the 95th was sent to Camp Shelby, Mississippi to train for the invasion of Japan. Pres. Harry Truman ended the war with Japan by ordering the atomic bomb dropped on two of their cities. The bombs were delivered by Boeing's B-29's. Vaughn had worked for Boeing before entering the service and had a part in the production of the B-29. He had declined the exemption from military service that Boeing had offered.

During 1947-1948, Vaughn was assigned duty in Kansas City in the Military Escort Service, escorting WWII dead to their homes for reburial. In 1948, he married Enid Mathes. That same year, he was commissioned in the U.S. Army.

Assignments took the family to Germany, 1949-1952 and Japan, 1957-1960 with the Military Advisory Assistance Group. Vaughn trained in all Army aircraft and specialized in aviation maintenance and supply. During 1967-1968, his battalion kept the helicopters of the First Cavalry Division flying in Vietnam. Returning to St. Louis, he became Director of Maintenance for Army aircraft repair facilities in the U.S. He retired in May 1971 after 27 years of service.

Most Army retirees display a window decal, which declares, "Retired, Still Serving." This is true in Vaughn's retirement. During the 26 years he resided in Waynesville, MO, he volunteered many hours with the Retired Officers Assistance Office at the Ft. Leonard Wood hospital's information desk. During Desert Shield and Desert Storm most of the regular military were sent to Saudi Arabia. Vaughn worked as a volunteer replacement in the medical warehouse delivering medical supplies to the pharmacy, and also spent many hours as a volunteer in the various Chaplain's offices. He was also an active volunteer with the Good Samaritans and Salvation Army. In 1994, he was honored with Fort Leonard Wood's "Volunteer of the Year" award.

He is not happy unless contributing his service. Presently, he is a weekly van driver for the DAV taking the disabled to VA hospitals for treatment. While he has given many hours to these and other organizations, he has given even more of himself. He has given over 10 gallons of his blood, stopping only when ordered by his cardiologist.

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**May/June, 2005**

Vaughn's military honors and citations include:

- Legion of Merit with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster
- Bronze Star Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster
- Air Medal (1st through 8th Oak Leaf Clusters)
- Army Commendation Medal with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters
- Purple Heart
- Good Conduct Medal
- European-African-Mid Eastern Campaign Medal with 3 Service Stars
- WWII Victory Medal
- Army of Occupation Medal (Germany)
- RVN (Vietnam) Service Medal with 4 Service Stars
- RVN Campaign Medal
- Combat Infantryman Badge
- Senior Army Aviator Badge
- Meritorious Unit Emblem
- 3 Overseas Service Bars

I am proud to nominate my husband, Vaughn Emerson for Patriot of the Month. He is truly a Patriot, past, present and future.

Enid M. Emerson  
Rachel Donelson Chapter

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