



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

Chief Master Sergeant Dale G. Rich (Ret)



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Dale Rich began his military career in 1949 at Keesler Air Force Base in Mississippi, and then studied at Albuquerque, New Mexico. He served in SAC, Strategic Air Command, in chemical, biological, and nuclear warfare, in conjunction with preventive measures. During his training he observed nuclear explosions, then later monitored the site. After serving six years, he separated from the Air Force.

Dale married Phyllis in 1956. After ten months as a civilian, he re-entered the Air Force. In 1958, at Ben Guerir, Morocco, he was in charge of nuclear security for the base. He spent time on the actual flight line monitoring incoming aircraft for possible contamination.

When Dale became very ill in 1959 and was incapacitated for over five months, his position was assigned to another officer.

When he returned to the base, he cross-trained in the munitions field, and thereafter, worked with loading and handling of weapons, including bombs. In 1960, he was stationed at Hunter Field at Savannah, Georgia and assigned to the munitions department there. That was the squadron that was responsible for storage of bombs and loading of planes. This was the time of the Cold War with Russia and in those days, there were planes in the air at all times.

Dale attended the Air Force Academy in 1961 and ranked highest in his class according to grades. In 1965, he was sent to Westover, Massachusetts AFB, and assigned to headquarters duty. During the Cuban Crisis, Dale spent the time underground in the side of a mountain for several tense days. Later in 1965, he received orders for Iceland with the North Atlantic Defense Command. The assignment entailed spending up to two weeks each month on base inspection trips. In 1969, Dale was ordered to Langley Field Tactical Air Command and assigned to headquarters duty. Later in 1969, Dale was ordered to Viet Nam and assigned to the 366th Tactical Fighter Wing at Da Nang. He was in charge of getting airplanes loaded and seeing that munitions were stored properly. Dale retired in June 1970.



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Dale's honors and citations include:

- ◇ Bronze Star
- ◇ Air Force Meritorious Service Award
- ◇ Air Force Good Conduct Medal
- ◇ Presidential Unit Citation, and
- ◇ American and Viet Nam Defense Service Medals.

Dale and Phyllis have four children: son Terry was born at Whiteman AFB, daughter Twila was born in Morocco, Tenny at Hunter Field, Georgia, and Tricia at Westover AFB, Massachusetts.

Phyllis, a member of Elizabeth Carey Chapter is proud to nominate her husband, Dale G. Rich for Patriot of the Month.



MSSDAR Patriot of the Month
January 15, 2006