



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

PATRIOT OF THE MONTH
Herbert R. Pennington, Jr., CW3, US Army (Ret)



Herbert R. "Dick" Pennington enlisted in the US Army on April 19, 1949. He did his basic training at Fort Chaffee, AR, and was assigned first to Fort Benning, GA, then to Fort Lewis, WA.

The Korean War started June 25, 1950. Dick was assigned to the 2nd Infantry Division and went to Korea on the General A.W. Greeley in August 1950. His unit with others pushed the North Korean Army out of South Korea and past the city of Pyongyang in November 1950. They were overrun by the huge Chinese Army that crossed the North Korea-China border. An "orderly retrograde" was hastily made from Pyongyang back to South Korea in December, 1950. Almost every letter he wrote was from a different place, including "a foxhole in a Korean cemetery." He returned to the United States in November 1951, and was assigned to the 101st Infantry Division at Camp Breckinridge, KY. He was promoted to Master Sergeant in March 1952.

In May 1952, he married Anna May Paul. The family accompanied him on tours of duty to Indiana, Maryland, Virginia, and Kentucky. He received his warrant appointment in 1961, with orders for an accompanied tour in Germany. The remainder of his career was spent at Fort Leonard Wood, MO, except for a tour with the 88th Engineering Battalion in Vietnam. He retired in May 1969.

During his military career, he was highly decorated and recognized for the following honors/citations:

- ◇ Meritorious Service Medal
- ◇ Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster
- ◇ Good Conduct Medal
- ◇ National Defense Service Medal with Star
- ◇ Korean Service Medal with 7 battle stars
- ◇ Vietnam Service Medal with 3 battle stars
- ◇ Armed Forces Reserve Medal
- ◇ United Nations Korean Service Medal
- ◇ Republic of Korea Service Medal
- ◇ RVN Gallantry Cross with Palm
- ◇ Vietnam Campaign Medal
- ◇ Army Presidential Unit Citation
- ◇ Army Meritorious Unit Citation with Oak Leaf Cluster
- ◇ Korean Presidential Unit Citation
- ◇ Vietnam Presidential Unit Citation

Since retirement he has worked actively for veteran and retiree benefits and coordinated an area retiree organization-"Voice of Retired Military." He is a life member of the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Disabled American Veterans. He serves on the Community Health Care Board at the Fort Leonard Wood Hospital.

In 2000, he organized the first Memorial Day services to honor veterans at the Fort Leonard Wood and Waynesville cemeteries. He continued this annual event until the local Chamber of Commerce assumed responsibility in 2004. He is active in community activities and organizations and has served on the Waynesville R-6 School Board.

Dick's wife, Anna, of the Noah Coleman Chapter, proudly nominates him for Patriot of the Month.



MSSDAR Patriot of the Month