



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

**PATRIOT OF THE MONTH:
Charles William "Bill" Pearce**



Charles William "Bill" Pearce was inducted into the US Army on February 9, 1943, at Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas. After his thirteen week basic training at Camp Walters, Texas, he joined the paratroopers for two months training at Ft. Benning, Georgia. He was then sent to North Africa, and Italy, where he joined the 82nd Airborne. From Naples, Italy, he was sent to Anzio Beach Head, and then to England.

His unit was sent to Holland where they parachuted on September 17, 1944, at the Grave Bridge during a battle called "Market Garden." Bill was captured by the Germans on September 28, 1944, and sent to Camps 7A and 11A near Munich, Germany. The POWs there were liberated by the American troops, 99th Division, on May 5, 1945. Bill was sent to a hospital in Reims, France. After he was dismissed from the hospital, Bill boarded the Robert M.T. Hunter, a British ship, bound for Newport News, Virginia. He traveled by train to LaPlata, Missouri. He was brought home to Novinger by a cab driver, who refused to take payment for the fare. Bill never forgot that kindness.

Bill received the following honors/citations:

- ◇ (2) Presidential Citations w/ Oak Leaf Cluster
- ◇ Prisoner of War Medal
- ◇ Combat Infantry Medal
- ◇ Good Conduct Medal
- ◇ Battle Stars (4)

After returning home from World War II, Bill worked in the Novinger coal mines for ten years. He was then employed by Wright Tire and Appliance in Kirksville for twenty-nine years, retiring in 1986.

Bill married Joanne Pope in June 1946. They have three children, five grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Bill holds life memberships in the Green Hills Chapter Ex-Prisoners of War, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #2508, and Disabled American Veterans Post #48. He is also a member of the Loyal Order of the Moose #1751, and St. Rose Catholic Church in Novinger. He volunteers much of his time serving as an honor guard at military funerals.

His hobbies include turkey and deer hunting, remodeling houses, and lending a hand to anyone that needs help. He enjoys tending his vegetable and flower gardens, where he makes sure to plant enough vegetables to share with family and friends. He has many beautiful peony bushes.

Carol Wilson, Regent, and the members of Ann Haynes Chapter proudly nominate Charles William "Bill" Pearce for Patriot of the Month.



MSSDAR Patriot of the Month