



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



### **Patriot of the Month, September 2006 Carold W. Bland**

Carold W. Bland joined the US Army in January 1943. He was a radio operator and gunner of a Steward M5-A1 light tank during WWII as forward reconnaissance for the 92<sup>nd</sup> Regiment Cavalry Recon Squadron (Mechanized), 12<sup>th</sup> Armored "Hellcat" Division of the 7<sup>th</sup> Army, commanded by General Alexander M. Patch. Carold risked his life over and over again, fighting for our freedom across France, Germany and Austria, including being involved in the liberation of the Landsburg concentration camps in Germany.

Next, as one of the first American divisions to be commanded by a foreign general, he fought under the French General, de Lattre de Tassigny, in the 1<sup>st</sup> French Army. Later, his division was attached to General George S. Patton's 3<sup>rd</sup> Army, and was known as "The Mystery Division," spearheading the rush to the Rhine.

Carold earned the following honors/citations:

- Army of Occupation Medal with German bar
- Bronze Campaign Star (3)
- Campaign Rhine-Danube
- Medaille de la France Liberee

- Croix du Combattant
- Medaille Commerative Franciase (officially know as The War Medal)
- French Fouriggiere
- American Campaign Medal
- WWII Victory Medal
- European-African Mideast Campaign Medal
- Good Conduct Medal

Carold was discharged from the service in October 1945.

Carold maintains contact with those of his fellow 12<sup>th</sup> Armored Division friends who are still living. He attends yearly reunions and regional meetings. He was also involved in the creation of the 12<sup>th</sup> Armored Division Memorial Museum in Abilene, Texas, the only armored division to have its own museum.

Carold has published a book of stories of the common soldier entitled ***Common Man, Uncommon Price***. For this book, he interviewed 44 veterans from all branches of the service from WWI to Desert Storm, including the story of a Navajo Code Talker.

Carold delights in promoting patriotism every chance he gets by wearing either his WWII or a Continental Soldier uniform and giving historical and patriotic presentations to elementary and high schools, colleges, DAR and SAR chapters, and other community groups.

Carold has been married to Doris for 40 years. He enjoys arrowhead hunting, deer hunting, reading, and scrapbooking.

Connie Bland Olson, of the Gen. John Sullivan Chapter, proudly nominated her dad for Patriot of the Month. She wrote that he is the most patriotic person she knows and that his type of patriotism is more than just flag-waving... it is about the sacrifices of the past and sharing his ideals with the next generation.