



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



**Patriot of the Month, November 2006
Helen Bernadine Henley Gibson**

Helen Henley joined the Marine Corps on December 3, 1943, at the age of 22 and served until July 26, 1945. She was sent to boot camp at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. After boot camp, she was assigned to a specialist school at Cherry Point, North Carolina, to learn Marine aviation. She became an instructor teaching fighter pilots to shoot down enemy aircraft. Helen was ninth in a class of 21. She was classified as a gun air instructor and was sent to Aviation Women's Reserve Squadron 3 M.C.A.S. in El Centro, CA. Her class was the fighter pilot's last stop on his way overseas.

Helen met her husband while in the Marine Corps. They married and moved back to the family farm. Helen worked for the Missouri State Department of Revenue as a cashier for over 18 years. She also worked in the disbursement section of the Missouri State Treasurer's Office for 10 years.

Helen is a member of the Eldon Chapter DAR, the Miller County Historical Society, the Eugene Chapter #386 Order of the Eastern Star, the Association of Retired Missouri State

Employees, and the Spring Garden Baptist Church. She is a past member of the Ladies Auxiliary to the VFW and the Eugene Country Club. She attends Women Veterans meetings at the Veteran's Hospital, works at the Miller County Courthouse counting absentee ballots each election, and writes an article for the Eldon paper each week.

Helen has two sons, who both served in the military during Viet Nam, five grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. Her hobbies include gardening, cooking, crafts, quilting, scrap booking, and bird watching. (Helen says she has health problems and can no longer be as active as she once was.)

Delores Brondel nominated Helen for Patriot of the Month. Delores wrote that Helen accepts any task assigned to her with willingness. Helen is a member of the DAR Service for Veterans Committee and sews beautiful lap robes and other comfort items for the veterans. She also cuts out the cancelled postage stamps, which are used by the Department of Veterans Affairs in physical therapy

Delores Brondel and the members of the Eldon Chapter are proud to nominate Helen Henley Gibson for Patriot of the Month.