



Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution



Patriot of the Month, January 2008 Ernest Cowherd

Ernest Cowherd graduated from Purdy (Missouri) High School and was attending the University of Arkansas when he was drafted into the Army in October 1944. After training at Fort Roberson, Arkansas, he was sent to Mindanao, Philippines, arriving there with the 167th Infantry in May 1945. In June 1945, while serving on the front lines, Ernest was wounded with shrapnel in his leg and hip and a broken leg. He was carried out of the jungle on a stretcher by medics to the field hospital and was the only one in his company to make it out. Ernest remained in the field hospital until September, when he was flown to Vaughan Army Hospital in Chicago. He stayed in the hospital flat of his back for six months before he was discharged in February 1946.

Ernest received the following awards:

- The Purple Heart
- Bronze Battle Star
- European, African, and Middle East battle ribbon
- Victory Medal

Ernest returned to the family farm after his discharge. He established a dairy and attended the Agriculture Vocational School for veterans in Monett, Missouri.

Ernest married Mary Eden in May 1948. They have seven children, 13 grandchildren, and one great-granddaughter. Four of their sons are attorneys, one son is a banker, and one son has a grape vineyard and is a farmer. Their daughter is a high school principal in Kansas City, Missouri.

Ernest was a Registered Holstein breeder and with the family, participated in many Holstein shows and sales. He served for many years as a 4-H leader, and sat on the Barry County Extension Board, the Federal Land Bank Credit Board, and the Cassville Board of Education, serving six years as president of the Board. He is a member of the Cassville Methodist Church and serves on the Board of Trustees and Administrative Board.

Ernest is now retired from the dairy, but he and Mary still enjoy the farm and caring for a herd of Angus cattle. Though Ernest suffered a 50 percent disability from his war injuries, he has lived a most productive life.

Ernest's wife, Mary, and the members of the Alexander McNair Chapter NSDAR are proud to nominate Ernest Cowherd for Patriot of the Month.