



*Missouri State Society Daughters of the
American Revolution*

Patriot of the Month; January 2009

William Houston

William Houston was drafted into the Army in February of 1942 and discharged October 31, 1945. He entered into the active reserves where he remained to 1950, before being recalled for the Korean War, serving from July, 1950 – April, 1953; thus ending a military career of eleven years and two months. He saw duty with the 20th Armored Division, 1st Armored Division, 1st Special Service Force, 88th Division and the 474th Infantry Regiment Separate. While in Casablanca he volunteered and became a Darby's Ranger (Devil's Brigade) with training in Africa. He was one of six, out of 1,200 Darby Ranger Troops, who made it back from a mission in Italy without being captured or killed. William played dead lying on the ground while a German soldier walked within two feet of him and picked up his gun and left. William escaped by walking at night until he got back to the American camp. This ended Darby's Rangers as a fighting unit. Other places William saw duty were Camp Campbell, Kentucky, Newport News, Virginia, Holland, Africa, Luxembourg, Sicily, Italy, Belgium, France, Germany and with the occupational forces in Norway. Medals received were for combat service, overseas service, European-African Middle East, World War II Victory, US Army service, Battle of the Bulge ribbon, D-Day ribbon, Normandy, France, and Italy ribbons, National Defense Service, two Purple Hearts., seven bronze stars, one Silver Star, five invasion arrowheads and the Croix Cross of War.

He married Mary K. Perkins in 1946 and they had seven children, seventeen grandchildren and 25 great-grandchildren. Later he married Beverly Hobbs, then Mary Alberta Osborn, who passed on in 2007. William belongs to the Mormon Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints, the Moberly American Legion, the Moberly VFW, Eagles, Moose, NRA, Iowa Chapter of Darby's Rangers, Darby's Chapter in Branson and the National Ranger Battalion.

The Armstrong Chapter proudly nominates William Houston as Patriot of the Month.