



*Missouri State Society Daughters of the
American Revolution*

Patriot of the Month; January 2009

Gerald Sherwood

During WWII, Gerald (Jerry) enlisted at the age of seventeen knowing he probably would be drafted by the Army in another year. Rumor was that the Army was shipping to the European Theater. Jerry wanted to go in the opposite direction, so he enlisted in the USMC with the understanding they would fight in the Pacific. The reason for his desire to be in the Pacific was his hope to liberate his father, Gerald Sherwood, Sr., who was a prisoner of war. His father was a civilian contractor for the Army who was taken prisoner when Wake Island fell to Japan in 1941. Jerry enlisted the help of several branches of the news media to find out if his father was still alive. On his way to the Pacific he learned his father was still alive and being held prisoner, but they did not know the location. When Okinawa was liberated, Jerry's group was preparing for the invasion of Japan. After the atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, a Japanese invasion was no longer necessary, so he was assigned to China for 15 months. On his way to China a news reporter informed him that his father had been found and was taken to a hospital in the Philippines to recuperate. He was united with his father stateside after his tour of duty.

He earned the World War II Victory Medal, Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal, and the China Service Medal.

Jerry and his wife, Louise, both had families by prior marriages. He has four children, six grandchildren, and five great grandchildren, while Louise has five children and ten grandchildren. He worked for Rockwell International for 30 years. While there he worked on the assembly and testing of the Apollo spacecraft.

The Neosho Chapter proudly nominates Gerald Sherwood as Patriot of the Month.