



*Missouri State Society Daughters of the
American Revolution*

Patriot of the Month; April 2009

Richard Dennis Howell, Sr.

The members of Hardin Camp Chapter NSDAR are pleased to honor Richard Dennis Howell, Sr. of Centralia, Missouri as a Patriot of the Month.

Richard joined the Army in May of 1960, immediately following graduation from High School in Montgomery County, Missouri. He did his basic

training in Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri followed by eight weeks of training as a single-engine airplane mechanic. He was assigned to Fort Lewis, Washington as a member of the 4th Aviation Battalion, 4th Infantry in November of 1960 and promoted to Specialist 4th Class on August 2, 1961. In 1962, he was assigned to the Aviation School at Fort Rucker, Alabama where he completed additional training before being assigned to the Aviation Company, 11th Armored Cavalry in Straubing, Germany. Richard was discharged but reenlisted soon after for an additional six years. He served with the 3rd Aviation Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division, Kitzingen, Germany and while there he visited the Dachau Concentration Camp, which impacted the remainder of his life.

Richard was promoted to Specialist 5th Class in 1964 and was assigned service with the 13th Artillery Group in Homestead, Florida where he was awarded the Outstanding Performance of Duty Medal. He also earned the National Defense Service Medal, was a recipient of the Army Good Conduct Medal twice, Meritorious Unit Commendation, Vietnam Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with "Metal 1960 Device", Aircraft Crewman Badge, Expert Rifleman Badge-M-14 Rifle and Sharpshooter Rifleman Badge.

Richard was stationed in Quy Nho'n, Republic of Vietnam in February of 1967 as Platoon Sergeant for rotary wing maintenance (helicopter). He completed his tour of duty in 1968 and was stationed in Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri in Company C, Special Troops where he was a Senior Troop Movement Specialist.

Richard's enlistment expired in July of 1968 but he reenlisted in 1969 and served as a Staff Sergeant in the 14th Company, 1st Battalion in Fort Rucker, Alabama. He served as the Operations and Maintenance Sergeant at the US Army Aviation School in Fort Rucker and also as the enlisted Aide to the Division's Sergeant Major and Commanding Officer. He remained in this role until his retirement.

Richard has four children, thirteen grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. He and his second wife Shirley live in Centralia, Missouri.

The Hardin Camp Chapter thanks Richard Dennis Howell, Sr. for his service to our country.