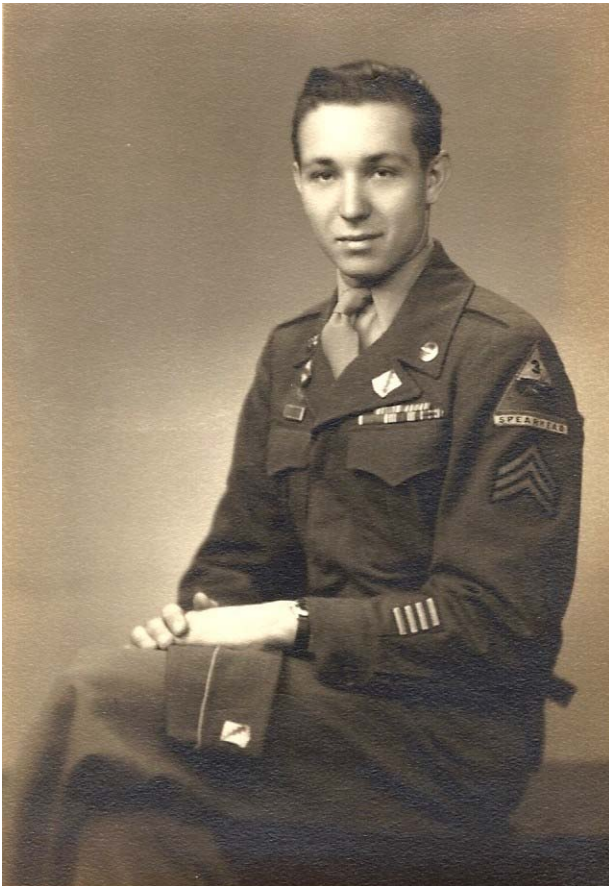




Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution

Patriot of the Month; June 2009
Oda C. “Chuck” Miller



The Missouri State Society NSDAR is pleased to honor Oda C. “Chuck” Miller as a Patriot of the Month for June of 2009.

Chuck was born in Winslow, Arkansas and moved to Kansas City, Missouri as a child. He graduated from Northeast High School during midterm January, 1943, and joined the Army. He served in Company E, 32nd Armor Regiment, of the 3rd Armored Division.

Chuck had basic training with the newly formed 20th Armored Division at Camp Campbell, Kentucky. From there he was sent to England to serve as a tanker in a replacement pool. He was then dispatched to the 48th Ordnance Battalion where they would take water-proofed tanks to Normandy. He spent a couple of weeks driving a two and a half ton, six-by-six truck picking up ordinance supplies from Omaha and Utah Beaches. During a battle in Germany, he received shrapnel in an ankle, which was later removed at a hospital in Frankfurt. He returned to

duty ten days later and saw combat with three different crews during five campaigns: Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes and central Europe from Normandy to Dessau, Germany on the Elbe River. He left the army in December 1945, as a Buck Sergeant. In 1948, he joined the Army Reserves, where in 1952 he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant. After twenty-two years in the Reserves, he moved on to the Retired Reserves in October 1970 with the rank of Major.

Chuck received the following honors and citations:

- Purple Heart
- Good Conduct Medal
- European-African-Middle Eastern Theater with five Campaign Stars
- Distinguished Unit Badge
- Victory-Germany Medal
- American Theater Campaign Medal
- Occupation of Germany Medal
- Belgian Fourragère

President Harry S. Truman complimented Chuck upon his wearing the Belgian Fourragère by saying, “Sergeant, I’m proud to talk to somebody who wears the presidential citation and has been honored by another country.”¹

Chuck and wife, Winona, and their family moved to Versailles in 1960 after purchasing a resort at the Lake of the Ozarks. They have been married fifty-six years and are parents of three sons and one daughter. They have nine grandchildren, thirteen great-grandchildren and one great-great-granddaughter. Chuck is a retired real estate agent and belongs to the following organizations: American Legion, where he serves as Finance Officer; Veterans of Foreign Wars; 3rd Armory Division Association; Veterans of Battle of the Bulge; Military Order of the Purple Heart; Reserve Officers Association; Versailles Masonic Lodge No. 320; Versailles Cemetery Association; and Versailles United Methodist Church.

The members of Eldon Chapter sponsored Chuck as a Patriot of the Month and thank him for his service to our country.

¹ *Kansas City Star Archive*