



*Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution*

**Patriot of the Month; July 2009  
Bruce Miller, Sr.**



The Missouri State Society NSDAR is pleased to honor Bruce Miller, Sr., as a Patriot of the Month for July 2009.

Bruce was born in 1921. He entered the Army at Jefferson Barracks, St. Louis, Missouri, on April 10, 1942, and served as a heavy machine gunner in the infantry until September 25, 1945. After 13 weeks of training at Camp Roberts in California and at various camps on the California coast, his unit was shipped to Florida in September 1942.

The 116<sup>th</sup> Infantry, H Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion was headed overseas on the Queen Mary. They arrived in Scotland and later were sent to England for 21 months of amphibious training on the English Channel in preparation for landing in Normandy. It was while he was in England that he met his future wife, Vera Thomas, a member of the British Army Corp. On June 6, 1944, his unit landed on Omaha Beach. Bruce lost friends and fellow soldiers during the beach landing.

The soldiers were pinned down for four or five hours. The survivors of his unit later made their way to Germany, France, Holland and Belgium. Bruce was wounded twice by flying shrapnel and lost the hearing in one ear due to shell concussion.

Bruce received the following honors and citations:

- **Two Purple Hearts**
- **Good Conduct Medal**
- **European-African-Middle Eastern Theater with four Campaign Stars for service in Central Europe, Rhineland, Normandy and France**

After the war, Bruce returned to England and married Vera in June 1945. They returned to Washington, Missouri where he worked for the Army Corps of Engineers on the Missouri River, and later as a member of the Carpenters Union. After retiring, he volunteered at the local food pantries, collecting and distributing food. He was also an avid fisherman. He is a member of the First Methodist Church.

On May 3, 2008, Bruce was honored to be chosen and flown by the Franklin County Honor Flight, to the World War II Memorial in Washington, DC. The Franklin County Honor Flight is an organization from Union, Missouri, that takes veterans to Washington, DC, at no cost to the veterans. Senator Bob Dole was there to greet the veterans at they arrived at the memorial. "They treated us so nice, and many people stopped to shake hands and say "Thanks" at the memorial and airport."

Bruce, now 87, resides at the Cedarcrest Nursing Home in Washington, Missouri. His wife of 62 years passed away in November 2007. They have two children, two grandchildren and three great grandchildren. Bruce loves to visit with people and other residents at the nursing home. He is willing to share stories about the war to anyone who is interested.

The Valley of the Meramec Chapter proudly nominated Bruce Miller, Sr., as Patriot of the Month.