



Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution

**Patriot of the Month; August 2009
Robert W. Reichard**



The Missouri State Society NSDAR is pleased to honor Robert W. Reichard of Andress, Pennsylvania, as a Patriot of the Month for August 2009.

Robert had a truly amazing military career that has been documented in his book, *“One Soldier’s Story - A Collection of War Stories”*. His adventures began in World War II as a member of the Army Air Force from 1944-1945; and continued during the Korean War beginning as a corporal in the U.S. Army in 1950, and ending with the cold war in 1968.

Some of Robert’s extraordinary experiences are as follows:

- On board the Liberty ship, the Felix Grundy (troopship) headed to Italy in WWII. He was the Provost Marshall and the hot shellman on a 4 inch 50 surface gun with the naval gun crew during a submarine attack. Two ships in the convoy were sunk.
- Flew 24 missions as a bombardier and one as a navigator on a B-24 in WWII with a rank of 1Lt. He was the squadron assistant intelligence officer and trained as a B-24 radar (Mickey) operator. He dropped bombs on six countries: Italy, Poland, Germany, Austria, Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia

- He left the Army Air Force in 1945, and returned to civilian life. In 1950, he enlisted in the Army.
- Was trained as a counter-intelligence officer
- Entered the Korean conflict as a regular Army Corporal
- Was assigned to the 1st Marine Division at Hamhung, North Korea, December 1950, for about a week under Lt Landrum, U.S.M.C. He was one of the “Chosen Few”.
- Selected as a guard for General MacArthur when he visited Wonju, Korea in 1951
- Was probably the only military policeman to fly over the North Korean capitol, then to the Yalu River on a photo recon mission in 1951
- Developed information which assisted in the capture of a traitor wanted by West German intelligence
- Received a commendation from the Police President of Berlin in 1956
- Became a paratrooper in the 11th Airborne at Augsburg, Germany in 1957
- Received training as a criminal investigator at Oberammergau, Germany
- In 1962, ran a military police detachment in Korea north of the 38th parallel composed of 25 U.S. Army MPs and 25 Korean MPs
- Was the noncommissioned officer in charge of security at the underground Pentagon
- Successfully penetrated the underground Pentagon twice in one day
- Returned to Italy in 1965 and became a first sergeant (ISG) of military police, then took over the position of ISG at the 69th Ordnance Company
- In Italy, was awarded the title of honorary first sergeant of the Allied Tactical Air Force by that unit
- Was awarded the Legion of Merit for service as a non-commissioned officer
- Robert was awarded the Air Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters
- Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster.

Robert and his wife, Joyce, have no surviving children. He belongs to the American Legion, the VFW, the Chosen Few and the Retired Officers Association.

His book, *“One Soldier's Story – A Collection of War Stories”* is no longer in print but can be viewed online at: www.bobreichard.com.

The members of Webster Groves Chapter are pleased to honor Robert W. Reichard as a Patriot of the Month.