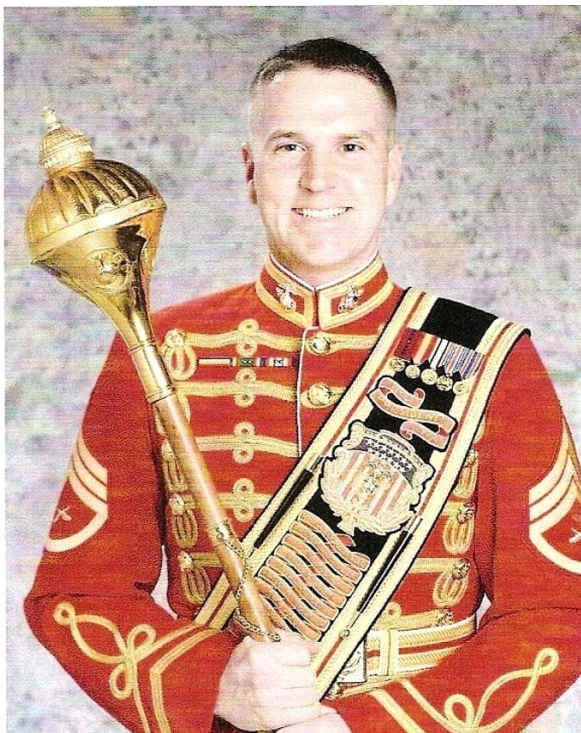




*Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution*

**Patriot of the Month; December 2009**  
**Staff SSgt Eric L. Yocom**



The Missouri State Society NSDAR is pleased to honor Eric L. Yocom as a Patriot of the Month for December 2009.

Eric graduated in 1996 from Marceline R-V High School and then attended Missouri Western State College in St. Joseph, Missouri, where he studied music education. In January 1998 he enlisted in the Marine Corps.

Eric attended recruit training at Marine Corps Recruits Depot in San Diego, California. After completion of the basic course at the Armed Forces School of Music in Little Creek, Virginia, he received orders to the Marine Band San Diego. Since then he has been deployed to and served in Okinawa, Japan; Miramar, California; Kuwait and Iraq.

Since November 2007, he has been with “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band as Assistant Drum Major. He leads the band in ceremonial commitments as the company gunnery sergeant and is responsible for the unit and new member training. In January 2009, he led the inaugural parade that accompanied the taking of the presidential oath by Barack Obama in Washington, D.C.

Honors and Citations received:

- Presidential Unit Citation
- Navy Unit Commendation (3<sup>rd</sup> Award)
- Good Conduct Medal (3<sup>rd</sup> Award)
- National Defense Service Medal
- Iraq Service Medal (3 stars)
- Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal
- Global War on Terrorism Service Medal
- Sea Service Deployment Ribbon (3<sup>rd</sup> Award)

Staff SSgt Yocom states that he is a Marine first and a musician second. He has always been told that the single most important thing they do as Marine Bandsmen is honoring those former Marines who have passed away. He said, “I realized how much of a responsibility of laying our deceased to rest is and making every one count. We – the Marines in formation along with the band – only have one chance to get it right”.

Eric is married to Jessica and they have one child.

The Continental Congress Chapter proudly nominated Eric L. Yocom as Patriot of the Month.