

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution  
Proudly "Spotlights" our January 2011  
Patriot of the Month



**Dennis J. C.  
Owens**

Sponsored by:

**Kansas City Chapter  
Kansas City,  
Missouri**



Dennis J.C. Owens joined the Marine Corps in October 1968 and remained on active duty until November 1971. He then joined the Marine Corps Reserve and remained with the Reserves until July of 1974. Dennis wanted to serve as a Marine and help our nation win the war and defeat communism, so he postponed going to Law School until following his military service.

Dennis' duty stations included Quantico Marine Corps Base, Virginia, Camp Pendleton, California, Vietnam, Okinawa, Japan, and Twenty-nine Palms, California. In Vietnam, while leading a sniper platoon, Lieutenant Owens and his snipers took out an assassination squad of Viet Cong (orders to kill the town mayor and his family as well as others were found on their bodies). He was involved in many combat situations and some pacification duties.

**His awards include:**

- **Vietnam Campaign Medal**
- **Vietnam Service Medal**
- **Combat Action Ribbon**
- **Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry**

**Following his service Dennis attended Law School at Notre Dame University, graduating in 1975. He then clerked one year for Chief Justice Robert Seiler of the Missouri Supreme Court. This allowed his wife, Cathy, to finish her degree in Home Economics from the University of Missouri in Columbia in 1976.**

**Dennis has spent most of the last thirty-five years in private practice as an appellate attorney. He is actively involved in many service organizations and serves as a board member for many of them. He has served on the Board of Governors of the Missouri Bar. The White House interviewed him for the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals.**

**Dennis and Cathy have four children and two grandchildren. Dennis appeared on "Hollywood Squares" when he was stationed at Twenty-nine Palms, California. He was also a champion on "Jeopardy" while in Law School.**

**Dennis is an avid reader with a library of 15,000 volumes. He has written over 400 book reviews for the ABA Appellate Practice Journal. His hobbies include traveling and model trains. Dennis is a member of Visitation Parrish.**