

**Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution
Proudly "Spotlights" our March 2012
Patriot of the Month**



Ivan Johnson

Sponsored by:

**Thomas Hart Benton
Chapter
Warsaw, Missouri**



Ivan Johnson was born June 2, 1943 in Cherokee, Iowa. He graduated from Washington High School, Cherokee, Iowa, in May 1961.

In September 1961 Ivan entered the United States Air Force. He served with the Security Police. While stationed at Hahn Air Force Base, Germany, he worked security at Mace Missile Site. Stationed at Naha Air Force Base Okinawa, he worked security at Entry Control Point and he also worked in aircraft security. While at Karat Air Force Base, Thailand, he was in law enforcement.

While stationed in Denver, Colorado, at Lowry Air Force Base he was a prisoner counselor. During his time at Duluth International Air Port Air Force Base Division, Duluth, Minnesota, he worked in munitions security and while stationed at Grand Forks Air Force Base, Grand Forks, North Dakota, he

worked as an accident investigator and in missile security. He was assigned Temporary Duty for Operation Big Lift in Germany in the 1960's.

One memorable event in Ivan's military career happened while he was in Okinawa. Ivan was working at Entry Control Point when a typhoon came upon him. He was supposed to have been off duty but because of the typhoon, his relief could not make it over to relieve him. This left Ivan by himself in the building with water slowly coming in under the door and water rising deeper in the building. He was not allowed to leave his post. Being the only one in the building and not knowing how bad the typhoon was going to be and how high the water was going to rise, he said, "That was a big scare."

Ivan's most honored military duty was to be a part of the Honor Guard for a deceased comrade in Germany. Ivan was discharged in October 1981 after serving for twenty years.

During his military career Ivan received so many medals, awards, and citations, he can't remember them all, but he does remember:

- Air Force Good Conduct Medal w/3 oak leaf clusters
- Foreign Service
- Air Force Longevity Service Award

Ivan's civilian careers have been spent in security at Bothwell Regional Health Center. He has served as a custodian school bus driver, college custodian, and owned and operated a lawn mowing service company.

Ivan and his wife, Kathleen, have been married many years. They have six children and eleven grandchildren. He really enjoys his retirement. He is a member of Parkview Christian Church.