

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



**Margaret "Suzanne" Lankford Jolivette**

Sponsored by:

**Lafayette-Lexington Chapter  
Lexington, Missouri**

Margaret "Suzanne" Lankford Jolivette was born in St. Louis, Missouri and raised in the Jefferson City area. She graduated from Missouri Baptist College in St. Louis.

Suzanne was a nurse for several years prior to her enlistment in the United States Army. She was a Nurse Manager of Cardiac Surgery, Cedars Sinai, Los Angeles, California; Primary Nurse for Kaiser Permanente, Anaheim, California; Charge Nurse in the Emergency Department, Midway Medical Center, Los Angeles, California.

On February 17, 1968, Suzanne joined the service, being assured assignment to Vietnam. Her basic orientation was at Medical Field Service School, Fort Sam Houston, Texas. She served three months at Brook Army Medical Center before deploying to 24<sup>th</sup> Evacuation Hospital, a neurosurgical hospital at Long Binh. When she first

arrived, the hospital did not have running water and she said, "There was a lot of makeshift and jury-rigging things and making things out of nothing." She further stated, "I had a different view than the new nursing graduates who were over there. It wasn't as traumatic for me." Her prior years of nursing helped her to handle the experience emotionally. She worked twelve hour shifts, six days a week and was proud to work with many exceptional surgeons, doctors, and nurses.

Suzanne was transferred to Fort Ord, California as Head Nurse in the Intensive Care Unit. She met Edward S. Jolivette while in California. He was an Army helicopter pilot. They married and five days later her husband left for Vietnam. She followed for her second tour to Vietnam a couple of weeks later. Suzanne was assigned to the 85<sup>th</sup> Evacuation Hospital as an Intensive Care Nurse and then Head Nurse in Tropical Medicine. Her husband was wounded and medically evacuated about three weeks before his tour was over. When Suzanne returned to the United States, she resigned her commission.

Suzanne's medals include:

- Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal w/Device 1960
- Army Commendation Medal
- National Defense Service Medal
- Vietnam Service Medal

After returning from Vietnam, Suzanne and Edward resided in California and raised one son. They have three grandchildren. After a forty year career in nursing, Suzanne returned to Missouri. She designs and makes jewelry, loves traveling, photography, and oil painting. She is a Court Appointed Special Advocate for children in foster care, member of the American Legion and Financial Officer for her local American Legion Post. She has been active in animal rights and care. She is a member of the First Baptist Church. Suzanne has submitted her DAR application papers and is waiting on verification from national.