

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution
Proudly “Spotlights” our April 2012
Patriot of the Month



Leonard Taylor, Sr.

Sponsored by:

**Poplar Bluff Chapter
Poplar Bluff, Missouri**

Leonard Taylor was lured into the United States Army by his older brother, Larry, who gave him exciting reviews of his life in the service. Joining the Army in 1971, Leonard followed the footsteps not only of Larry but also his father, who was retired from the United States Navy. His younger brother George served in the Air Force.

Leonard's first twelve years were served in the Infantry transitioning from there to the 101st Airborne. From there he went into the Special Forces where he honed his military skills, becoming more than proficient in marksmanship and survival skills. His duties changed dramatically as he was sent around the world on special and often covert missions.

Leonard saw service in Thailand, Korea, Germany, Ethiopia, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, South Africa, Panama, Kenya, and Jordan. His primary base was Ft. Campbell, Kentucky.

Returning from an overseas assignment, his wife divorced him. They shared custody of their only child, Leonard Jr. Subsequent to this, he met and married a young divorcee, Nancy, who was also in the Army and raising two young sons. Not always serving at the same base, family pitched in to help with the children. As his service was winding down, Leonard became a house husband. Retiring in 1996 as a Staff Sergeant, he

prepared a new home for his family in Poplar Bluff.

Leonard's son, Leonard, Jr. arrived home one day and announced that he was enlisting in the Army, feeling that he wanted to honor his father and step-mother by serving his country as they had done. He served in Iraq as had his father.

Asked about his most rewarding military moment, Leonard said, "I had tears in my eyes when Kuwait was liberated. As we passed through the streets, Kuwaitis were waving American Flags and holding out their children asking the GI's to hold them and pose for a picture. At that moment I thought to myself it was worth all that I have done."

Leonard's medals, ribbons, and badges include:

- Army Achievement Medal
- Meritorious Service Medal
- Good Conduct Medals w/5 bronze knots
- National Defense Service Medal
- Southwest Asia Service Medal w/2 bronze service stars
- Saudi/Kuwait Liberation Medal
- Combat Infantry Badge
- Parachutist Badge
- Air Assault Badge
- Special Forces Badge
- Non Commissioned Officers Development Badge
- Army Service Ribbon
- Overseas Ribbon

Leonard enjoys spending time with his family and friends. He maintains his proficiency on the range with daily practice.