

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



Norman Thorson

Sponsored by:

**Missouris Shoal Chapter
Lathrop, Missouri**



Norman Thorson was born October 22, 1930 in Lexington, Missouri and graduated from high school in Lexington. He attended Mortuary School before he enlisted in the United States Air Force on March 6, 1952, during the Korean War.

After basic training, he joined other Medical Corpsmen at Bolling Air Force Base, Washington, DC. He worked in the base hospital. While serving at Bolling he met his wife to be, Blanche, who was a nurse in the Air Force. He worked in the base hospital for three years.

Norman was then transferred to Johnston Island which was eight hundred miles south of Hawaii. On the island there was a landing strip which the Navy had built. He was part of a medical group of twelve which consisted of one doctor and one dentist. Norman worked in the Dispensary while serving on Johnston Island. Robert Capa, reporter for Life Magazine, had been killed while on assignment and when his body was on the way back to the States, a stop was made on Johnston Island. Norman received a call from the officer in charge asking him to come and inspect the body; however, it was in a sealed casket and so there was no way or need for his service. This island had been

built by the Navy and so after the war, it was cleared of all buildings. Norman returned to Bolling Air Force Base in 1956 where he was discharged.

Norman received the Good Conduct Medal.

Norman and his wife Blanche had two children and are grandparents of one grandchild. Norman worked in Kansas City, Missouri as a licensed embalmer for a funeral home. He later worked as a custodian at an elementary school where he retired in 1991. Norman is a member of St. Ann's Catholic Church.