

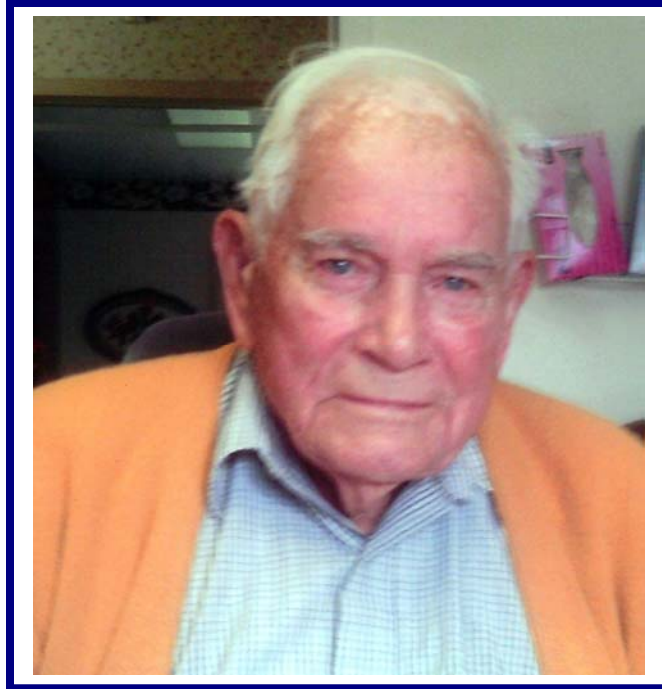
**Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution
Proudly "Spotlights" our April 2012
Patriot of the Month**



**Kenneth
VanArsdale**

Proudly Sponsored by:

**Arrow Rock Chapter
Arrow Rock, Missouri**



Kenneth VanArsdale was born in Marshall, Missouri on September 11, 1913. He graduated from Stillwater High School in Stillwater, Oklahoma.

Before the war, Kenneth worked as a Flight Instructor for TOTH Flight School in Kansas City, Missouri. After the war started, he worked at the Lake City Arsenal. He was offered a deferment but instead enlisted in the Army Air Force on February 7, 1944 in Kansas City, Missouri.

After training in Texas, Kenneth was sent to England with the 8th Division. He became a bombardier, flying thirteen missions over Germany in a B-17. One occasion he spoke about was the bombing of a Germany factory making aircraft guns.

When the war with Germany ended, Kenneth was assigned with a group to take aerial photographs of the African continent for the Casey Jones Project. He accompanied the film to Paris where the film was developed in 3D. Returning to the United States, with the rank of Staff Sergeant, he retired in Kansas City, Missouri on May 21, 1946.

Kenneth's medals include:

- **European African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal w/1 bronze star**
- **World War II Victory Medal**
- **Good Conduct Medal**
- **2 Overseas Bars**
- **American Theatre Ribbon**

Kenneth was a pilot for North American Airlines after the war.

Kenneth married Thelma Willbanks on July 11, 1936. They were married for seventy years. Thelma passed away in 2006. He is a member of the Zion Christian Church. He talks of hunting with his Uncle who owned a famous dog called "Jim the Wonder Dog."