

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



**Larry C.
Oberhelman**

Sponsored by:

**Gilead Rupe Chapter
Odessa, Missouri**



Larry C. Oberhelman was born in Kansas City, Missouri in June of 1946. He entered the U.S. Marine Corps in October 1966 and completed recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, California followed by basic infantry training school at Camp Pendleton, California. Upon completion of school, he reported to Company K, Marine Support Battalion (MSB), Pensacola, Florida where he completed the Morse Collection Course, for further assignment to Company D, MSB, Okinawa.

In May, 1969, he reported to Defense Language Institute, Monterey, California as a Russian language student. In October 1969, Sergeant Oberhelman was assigned to 1st Radio Battalion, Republic of Vietnam. He was assigned to Ft. Devens, Massachusetts upon his return. After completing the Traffic Analysis Course, he was reassigned to Company D, MSB, Okinawa for duty with the 7th Fleet in the Gulf of Tonkin. During August 1972, he was transferred to Company E, MSB, Misawa, Japan.

In February 1976, Staff Sergeant Oberhelman was assigned to Company

A, MSB, Ft. Meade, Maryland as a student in a Cryptologic Supervisor's Course, with follow on duty with 2nd Radio Battalion, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. After several Marine Expeditionary Unit deployments, Gunnery Sergeant Oberhelman was selected in 1979 as the first Marine to attend the Middle Enlisted Cryptologic Career Advancement Program at the National Security Agency.

Upon completion of the program, he was transferred to the Joint Special Operations Command at Ft. Bragg, North Carolina. In January 1985, Master Sergeant Oberhelman reported to the Fleet Marine Force Pacific as the Signals Intelligence/Ground Electronic Warfare Chief and Special Security Officer. Upon promotion to Master Gunnery Sergeant, he was reassigned to 1st Radio Battalion, Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, as the Operations Chief. In 1988, he assumed the post of Sergeant Major of Marine Support Battalion. He retired in 1996 after serving for thirty years.

Larry's personal decorations include:

- Navy/Marine Corps Parachutist Badge**
- Legion of Merit**
- Defense Meritorious Service Medal w/gold star**
- Meritorious Service Medal**
- Joint Service Commendation Medal**
- Navy Commendation Medal w/Combat V**
- Joint Service Achievement Medal**
- Combat Action Ribbon**
- Good Conduct Medal w/1 silver and 3 bronze stars**
- National Defense Medal w/bronze star**
- Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal**
- Vietnam Service Medal w/1 bronze star**
- Humanitarian Service Medal**
- Navy and Marine Corps Overseas Service Ribbon**
- Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal**

Larry is married to the former Leona Dieckmann and they have two children and four grandchildren. Their son joined the U.S. Navy in 1996 and is now a Navy Seal.

Larry is a member of the St. Paul Church. He is a board member on the Community Christina Center, Wellington, and Event Coordinator for the Lafayette County Veterans Banquet. This event is free for any veteran and one guest. At the last banquet, approximately 450 attended. Some of the funds collected are given to the Kansas City Honor Flight. He works with

the Troops Support Foundation to send packages to deployed troops overseas. He is also involved in supporting the 442nd Fighter Wing at Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri.