

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



John Wood

Sponsored by:

**Prairie Chapter
Lee's Summit, Missouri**



John Wood was born in Clarence, Missouri on March 22, 1938. He graduated from High School in Wethersfield, Connecticut in 1956. John enlisted in the United States Air Force in February 1958 as an Airman Basic and retired in 1978 after being selected for Chief Master Sergeant.

Throughout his Air Force career, John was involved in the highly classified computer maintenance career field. He began his career as an Electronic Computer Technician, became a technical instructor and supervisor, a Computer Maintenance Supervisor, and retired as Functional Manager and Branch Chief of Computer Systems at HQ Air Force Communication Service where he led in the logistical development of the first four ground stations for the KH11 spy satellite. He served at many bases throughout the United States and overseas including Southeast Asia. He established training requirements and developed courses to ensure all personnel were technically trained.

John saved the Air Force approximately \$12,000,000 by leading a cadre of instructors to the Raytheon Corporation, where they learned, from hand written engineering drawings, all the specifics of the radar system. After learning the system, the instructors developed and taught both United States and German Air Force personnel in correct radar system procedures.

John's medals and ribbons include:

- **Meritorious Service Medal**
- **Air Force Commendation medal**
- **Outstanding Air Force Unit Medal w/V**
- **Vietnam Campaign Service Medal w/2 stars**
- **Sharpshooter Medal**
- **Air Force Non Commissioned Officer Academy Ribbon**
- **Good Conduct Army Medal w/4 stars**
- **Good Conduct Air Force Medal w/4 oak leaf clusters**
- **Longevity Air Force Service Ribbon w/4 oak leaf clusters**
- **National Defense Medal**

John is a graduate of Webster College earning a Masters Degree in Management. He is a qualified commercial pilot and certified flight instructor in both single and multi engine aircraft.

John and his wife Linda have been married over fifty years. They have three children, eight grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.

After he retired from the Air Force, John built and opened a meat processing plant in Peculiar, Missouri. He was an owner operator of an over the road truck. He worked on computers and then opened a computer service business. In 2000, John retired again which gives him more time for hunting, fishing, gun repair and shooting. He is a Mason and a member of 1st Church.