

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution
Proudly Spotlight our June 2012
Patriot of the Month



Wayne Rogers

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Missouris Shoal
Chapter
Lathrop, Missouri

Wayne Rogers was born September 12, 1922 in Southern California. In order to meet the educational needs of their children his parents moved the family back to the Midwest and they settled in Osborn, Missouri. He graduated from Osborn High School in 1941.

Wayne, like many others, felt a strong obligation to serve his country and on the first Monday following the bombing of Pearl Harbor (December 1941), he joined the U.S. Marine Corps with pride.

Wayne loved his life in the military. Despite his six foot tall frame, he was an accomplished turret gunner on a torpedo bomber while serving in the Pacific Theatre. It was common to spend many hours in the small compact seat while flying "picket duty" searching for submarines and planes. During this campaign his home base was on

the *USS Ticonderoga*, an aircraft carrier. Life aboard the *Ticonderoga* was good, maybe too good, as his young body grew stronger and larger.

Later while still in the Marines, Wayne also served as a tractor driver in the Asiatic Pacific Theatre moving from one island to another (called island hopping). After the Americans took control of an island on the way to Japan they would build landing strips for possible use in the invasion of Japan. The landing strips were never used for their intended purpose. Wayne was discharged at Great Lakes, Illinois on February 2, 1946.

Following his first tour of duty, which lasted four years, he worked at an ammunition plant in Kansas City, Missouri. Times were tough in America at this time and jobs were scarce.

In 1947, Wayne reenlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps for four more years. During his second tour of duty he was based in Honolulu, Hawaii and worked as a mechanical engineer. While serving in Korea with the 3rd Marine Airwing, Wayne was an Engineer Equipment Forman while building a one mile long landing strip.

Wayne received the Good Conduct Medal.

After serving in World War II and Korea, Wayne ended his career in the military with the rank of Staff Sergeant. In November 1952, he received his second discharge in Chicago, Illinois.

Wayne and his wife, Kathy, have three children, eleven grandchildren, and seventeen great grandchildren. He is member of the Osborn Baptist Church and the American Legion.