



Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution
Honors Patriot of the Month
July, 2012



Margaret Mae Stuenkel

Sponsored by:

Armstrong Chapter

Margaret Mae “McNear” Stuenkel attended high school in Pyatt, Arkansas and just after her 21st birthday enlisted in the Marine Corp January, 1944. She did her basic training at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina and AIT at Edenton, North Carolina. After training Margaret was assigned to the Post Exchange (PX) at Cherry Point, North Carolina. She remained there until her discharge as a Corporal in January, 1946. Margaret is very emphatic about those two years in the Corp. She firmly states “You grow up!” and she would not take anything for her time of service.

Like so many, Margaret has many stories to share. One humorous incident occurred when she was on R&R (rest & recovery). She was catching a hop from her base to Baltimore, Maryland where she would then take the B&O Railroad home to Missouri. The only personnel on the plane, the initial part of the trip, were the pilot, co-pilot, and Margaret. The pilot said, "Gyrene, do you have your Mae West on and everything fastened?" He then informed her they would not be able to land the plane in Baltimore due to complications and she would have to bail out. She replied, “No Sir, I’ll go back to the base with you, I can’t jump out of a plane!” The plane was fine and did land in Baltimore but whenever the pilots came into the PX Margaret would get a lot of teasing for thinking she was going to have to bail over Baltimore.

Margaret met and married Billie J. Johnson a 1st Lt in the Marine Corp from Roanoke, Missouri in July 1946. In 1948 Margaret received her GED then graduated from Kansas State Teachers College in Pittsburg, Kansas in 1949 with a Business Degree. Billie attended a vocational school at the college in refrigeration and air-conditioning. His job in refrigeration and air-conditioning took them many places including North Carolina, California, Arizona, New Hampshire, Virginia, Salisbury, and Moberly. During this time Margaret worked for an office supply, an air engineering firm, and an automobile agency. Through the years Billie was recalled into the Marine Corp as a Captain.

Margaret and Billie have three wonderful children; eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. Billie passed in 1976 and Margaret went to work again for a farm and home company and later a coal company. She married again in 1989 to Warner Stuenkel who passed in June 2010.

The members of Armstrong Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution wish to extend our gratitude and thanks to Margaret for her service to our great country.