



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



John W. Staggs

Sponsored by:

Armstrong Chapter DAR

John Staggs graduated from Leonard High School, Leonard, Missouri in 1941, and attended one semester at Culver-Stockton College in Canton, Missouri. He was working on a farm helping his uncle when he was drafted into the United States Army on February 1, 1943. He received his basic training and Medical NCO training for the 86th Infantry "Black Hawk" Division at Camp Howze, Texas, near Gainesville.

Next he was sent to Leesburg, Louisiana, for winter maneuvers and then to Camp Livingston, Louisiana, for additional training. At Camp San Luis Obispo, California, he received amphibious training prior to being sent to Central Europe where he landed at LeHarve, France, on March 4, 1945.

John's first encounter with the enemy was at Cologne, Germany, with the 86th Infantry which did the cleaning out of the

Ruhr Pocket. While in the ETO, he was the driver for his company commander. John was North of Salzburg, Austria, when the war in Europe was over. His division was redeployed to the United States arriving in New York on June 17, 1945.

The 86th Infantry was briefly part of the Third Army under the command of General Patton. When asked if he ever saw General Patton, he stated he once saw him passing by in a jeep; and then, while in Germany, he also saw General Eisenhower pass by in a jeep.

After a brief training period at Camp Gruber in Oklahoma the 86th left for the Asiatic Pacific Theater on August 21, 1945. They arrived in Luzon the Phillipines on September 13, 1945. John was assigned to drive an ambulance while there. The 86th arrived back in the United State in March, 1946 and now as a Staff Sergeant John was discharged at Jefferson Barracks on March 8, 1946. John returned home and worked as a farmer.

John received the following medals and ribbons:

- The Good Conduct Medal
- The Bronze Star
- 1 Overseas Bar
- Victory Ribbon
- The American Theater Ribbon
- The European African Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon
- The Asiatic Pacific Theater Ribbon

John was recalled in 1950 during the Korean War for one year and one day. He worked stateside at the Fort Leonard Wood Hospital as a medical technician. He worked 12-hour shifts, seven days a week, with only occasional days off. He was discharged and went home to Shelbyville, MO., and continued farming.

John and Hettie Nadine McPike were married April 5, 1963, in Shelbyville, and in 1971, John was employed by the Soil Conservation Service. He worked in Shelby County then moved to Randolph County holding the same position until he retired in 1986. John has one step-son, one step-daughter, 5 step grandchildren, 7

step great-grandchildren, and 1 step great-great grandchild. John attends the Moberly Trinity Methodist Church, is a member of the VFW, is a Mason, and a Shriner.

The members of the Armstrong Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution are pleased to honor John Staggs as Patriot of the Month and wish to extend our gratitude and thanks to John for his service to our great country.