



Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution
Patriot of the Month
March 2013



Ronald Kieferle

Sponsored by:

**Louisiana Purchase Chapter
DAR**

Ronald Kieferle grew up on a farm northeast of Marion, Kansas. He went through high school during WWII and was 18 years and two days old when the Japanese surrendered, so he missed serving during that war. Ronald was in the first draft for the Korean War and entered the Army September 13, 1950. He completed his basic training at Fort Hood, Texas, and he and Ila McClelland were married there in January, 1951.

Ronald told how he always felt lucky when assignments were handed out and he was sent to Germany instead of Korea. While in Germany, Ronald, a PFC was a jeep driver assigned to the second Armored Division. The Second was divided up into five different parts of the French Zone of Germany and because of this he traveled a lot. The Second Armored Division was a tank division that mainly controlled the artillery units.

Ronald also played an accordion with a western band while in Baumholder, Germany. The band was made up of army personnel, and as it happened three of the

six members were from Missouri. They played for different functions in the immediate area and quite a few times got to play on the EUCOM Grand Ole Opry on Saturday nights in Frankfurt, Germany.

Since retiring, Ronald has met every year from 1990–2010 for a reunion with about twenty-five– thirty members of the Headquarters Company of Division Artillery at one of the soldier's home towns. Since then, many have become unable to travel due to age and health they have had to end their reunions. They really enjoyed getting together and talking about the old days. Ronald and his buddies all agree the time spent being in the armed forces is something every young man should experience, you learn how to get along with your fellow man, and you learn how to take orders and carry them out.

Ronald was a member of the Volunteer Fire Department for twenty-six years, a continuous member of the American Legion, a life member of the VFW, and an active member of the United Methodist Church over 70 years.