



**Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution  
Patriot of the Month  
June 2013**



**Wesley J. Nelson**  
Sponsored by:  
**Platte Purchase Chapter DAR**

Wesley Nelson graduated from Washington High School in Kansas City, Kansas. He joined the Kansas Army National Guard in 1966 while still in high school. His plan was to go to basic training after graduating but he received orders prior to graduation. Wesley originally joined because his older brother was in the 169<sup>th</sup> Aviation, 69<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade. His Brigade was activated in 1968 for the riots and while activated they were sent to Ft Carson, Colorado to train for Viet Nam. In February 1969 Wesley was levied for Viet Nam because his MOS was Helicopter Crew Chief and Door Gunner on a Huey. Wesley was married on February 1, 1969 and two weeks later he was in Viet Nam.

One of his many stories was about one night in Viet Nam while they were sleeping a delayed action rocket went thru the roof of the Supply Sergeant's houch. It struck and killed him throwing shrapnel and wood splinters into surrounding houches striking many others including Wesley. He was hit with shrapnel in his left knee. After things settled down he picked the shrapnel out of his knee and placed it in a Red Top Match box and carried it for his good luck charm. He kept it with him every day for the rest of the time he was in Viet Nam and is convinced it kept him alive. The supply Sergeant, Sergeant Love was of German nationality fighting to become an American citizen and one week after he died was when he was to get his citizenship and meet his fiancé in Hawaii to get married. She was already in Hawaii waiting for him at the time of his death. In thinking about the past Wesley feels most veterans do not like to talk about their experiences because a lot of people don't really understand what it is to deal with killings and war. Many have to face nightmares and illnesses the rest of their lives and hopefully family members and friends will try to understand and be patient with their veterans.

Medals and awards Wesley earned:

Purple Heart  
Bronze Star  
Air Medal  
Army Commendation Medal  
Viet Nam Service Medal with 3 Bronze Service Stars  
Republic of Viet Nam Gallantry Cross with Palm

Wesley married Millie Nelson and they have three children and ten grandchildren. He retired from the Missouri Gas Energy and belongs to the Methodist Church.

The members of the Platte Purchase Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution are pleased to honor Wesley Nelson as Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution Patriot of the Month and extend their gratitude and thanks for his service to our country.