

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution



Patriot of the Month

November 2014



Kenneth L. Diggs

Sponsored by:

Platte Purchase Chapter



Upon graduating from Guilford High School in 1941 and working the summer months in the wheat fields of North Dakota, Kenneth Diggs decided farming life was not his career ambition, and he made his way to Kansas City, Missouri, to attend sheet metal training school. When World War II started, Kenneth Diggs found work with North American Aviation in Fairfax, Kansas. Working final assembly on the North American B-25 Mitchell bomber installing air bladders on the leading edges of the wings for deicing. On May 18, 1943, Kenneth married his wife, Helen Rose Rimel. In July 1943, he received his draft notice from the U.S. Army. He was sent to Lincoln, Nebraska, to attend basic training with the Army Air Corp. Upon completion of basic training, Kenneth was given orders to Los Angeles for advanced training in basic airplane mechanics. When his schooling was completed, he was assigned to Dale Mabry Air Base, Tallahassee, Florida. He remained in Florida during the later stages of the war working and attending to maintenance duties on the North American P-51 Mustang.

Late in 1945, Kenneth made the long trek overseas on the U.S.S. LeJuene landing at LeHarve, France. After a short stay at Camp Lucky Strike, France, he was assigned to a permanent duty station at Wiesbaden, Germany. After several months in Germany, he was shipped home and discharged from the Army at Jefferson Barracks Military Post, just south of St. Louis. He arrived in Kansas City at Union Station on April 4, 1946, which was Helen's twenty-third birthday. She was there waiting for him when he stepped off the train.

Kenneth's citations and awards include: Victory Medal, Good Conduct Medal, American Theatre Ribbon, European African Middle Easter Theatre Ribbon.

Kenneth and Helen had three children, five grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. Kenneth is a proud World War II Army veteran, and he was recently invited to attend the Honor Flight Ceremony in Washington, D.C. with two of his grandsons. His most recent job has been at the car wash in his town. In 2014, it will mark the twentieth year Kenneth has worked at the car wash. He is still going strong at ninety years of age.

The Platte Purchase Chapter DAR is proud to nominate Kenneth Diggs as Patriot of the Month and extend their gratitude for his service to our great nation.