

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution



Patriot of the Month

January 2015



John E. Groth

Sponsored by:

Webster Groves Chapter



Sgt. First Class John E. Groth was born on November 1, 1963, and grew up in Sunset Hills, Missouri, a close knit community, very patriotic and law abiding. John attended school in the well-funded and academically top-ranking Lindbergh School District, where he was in Mrs. Joyce Franklin's kindergarten class. He graduated from Lindbergh High School where he was a National Merit Scholar and Presidential Scholar. He took advanced placement classes for college credit and Russian language classes from sixth grade through high school. He also learned the Arabic language on his own. John received a scholarship to the American University in Washington, D.C., and left school at the height of the Cold War to serve his country. The Army quickly placed him in Military Intelligence, and he became an interrogator. He served in Southeast Asia. In addition, he became a Paratrooper with the 82nd Airborne stationed at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

John's deployments include: the invasion of Panama (Operation Just Cause), participation in the "jump-in" to Fort Bragg upon the units in return, three tours in the Sinai and eight months in Bosnia with the United Nations Multinational Peacekeeping Forces; Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Desert Sabre, all in Southwest Asia, and Iraqi Freedom.

He has been awarded the following: Army Commendation Medal with 4 oak leaves, Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Medal with one star, Good Conduct Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, SW Asia Service Medal with three stars, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with mobilization 2 times, Army NCO Professional Development ribbon with 3 device, Army Service ribbon, Overseas ribbon with star, MFO ribbon with 3 device, Saudi Arabian Liberation Medal, and Kuwait Liberation Medal.

Upon leaving active-duty, he joined the Louisiana National Guard, where he supported the state operations during Hurricane George and in their Emergency Operations Center during hurricanes Katrina and Rita. He was also assigned to teach at the Military Intelligence School at Fort Huachuca, Sierra Vista, Arizona. After twenty-four years of service, he officially retired from the Army. He moved to Sierra Vista and continues teaching at Fort Huachuca as Senior Training Specialist, Military Intelligence.

The Lindbergh School District and the city of Sunset Hills tracked students who served in the military. Tracking John was almost impossible as he was always in classified duty. Once he contacted a KDG teacher and asked for a Sunset Hills flag which was promptly sent to him. He brought it home years later, and a picture was taken of him in front of the Veteran's Monument. Another time a quilt given to all the Sunset Hills veterans was given to John as well as a "welcome home." On another visit, the city presented him with a document of "welcome and thanks."

"The first day I met John I knew he was a special person, and my goal was to keep him in that little boy innocence knowing that his intelligence would always be there. The maturity developed along the way, and he was able to enjoy different phases of development in life. My motto is 'Everything has a season.' John proved it to be true with me, his kindergarten teacher." – Mrs. Joyce Franklin, past Kindergarten Teacher, Area Veteran's Advocate, Founder of the Sunset Hills Historical Society, past Webster Groves Chapter Regent

The Webster Groves Chapter DAR is proud to nominate John Edward Groth as Patriot of the Month and extends gratitude for his patriotic service and commitment to our great nation.