

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution



Patriot of the Month

January 2015



Ray G. Richardson

Sponsored by:

Elk Horn Prairie Chapter



Mr. Ray Gene Richardson was inducted into the Army Air Corps on September 25, 1942. His date of entry into active service was October 9, 1942, at Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas. He served in the 100th Bomb Group 418 Squadron in duty locations: Walla Walla, Washington; Wendover Field, Utah; Sioux City, Iowa; he served on the refilling crew for B17s. He was a staff car driver and aircraft dispatcher in base operations for the air base, also. While overseas, he was a truck mechanic and driver for the 915th Signal Depot Avn. in Algiers, North Africa, and a truck mechanic and driver for the La Senna Air Base, Oran, North Africa. He also served in Pisa, Italy, as a truck driver and mechanic. Other duty locations include: Landsberg, Germany; Diss, England, Queen Mary to New York, and New York to Jefferson Barracks, Missouri.

His awards include: 2 Bronze Service Stars for Campaigns Rome-Arno and Northern Apennines, Good Conduct Medal, American Theater Campaign Ribbon, European African Middle Eastern Theater Campaign Ribbon, three overseas service bars, and Victory Ribbon.

Ray operated his own TV repair shop for thirteen years. He worked for two companies as an electrician – Carnation Milk Company and General Electric. He retired from GE in 1985. He has spent countless hours on his genealogy work and restoring cemeteries. He has received the Mt. Vernon Golden Apple Award, the McReynolds Award from the Missouri Alliance for Historic Preservation, Ham of the Year from the Ozark Amateur Radio Society, Resolution from the Missouri House of Representatives, and the Historic Preservation Medal from the Daughters of the American Revolution. He continues as president of the IOOF Cemetery Board.

Ray has been married to his wife, Betty J., for seventy-two years. They were married on October 5, 1942. Their only son, Joe R. Richardson, also served in the military in the Air Force during the Vietnam War. Ray and Betty lost Joe in 2014. They have two grandchildren. Ray was able to attend the Honor Flight ceremony in Washington, D.C., in 2009. He traveled on the first flight from Springfield, Missouri.

The Daughters of the Elk Horn Prairie Chapter DAR are proud to nominate Ray Gene Richardson as Patriot of the Month and extend gratitude for his patriotic service and commitment to our great nation.