

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution



Patriot of the Month

February 2015



David C. Harper

Sponsored by:

White Aloe Chapter



David entered the service October 6, 1958, in Fairview, Missouri as a teenager. He was honorably discharged from active military service, USS Kearsarge, CVS33 at Long Beach, California. His last duty assignment was the U.S.S. Kearsarge (CVS-33) as an IC3 (E-4). David worked in communications for the Navy. His courses included: IC"A" January 19, 1959 to April 24, 1959; his other service training included: NTC for IC Fireman. His tours included: Japan, China, Philippines, Vietnam, Hawaii, and surrounding areas. He was awarded the Good Conduct Medal.

Following honorable discharge from the Navy, David proceeded on to a lengthy career in the telecommunications industry, working in various craft, management, and consultant roles with Southwestern Bell and AT&T. He also obtained a Bachelor's degree from Park College, majoring in Economics, and pursued graduate studies at Rockhurst College. Following retirement from Southwestern Bell after 30 years of service, he continued to teach for the company until he suffered a major stroke in March 2012. Counting his experience while serving in the Navy, David worked approximately fifty years in communications/telecommunications, and has been cited by many in his profession as a mentor and leader. In addition, he was an active volunteer for many years in the Boy Scouts of America, serving in a number of roles, including two terms of duty as Scoutmaster for Troop 288, sponsored by Northminster Presbyterian Church in KC-North. David also volunteered in various leadership roles within Northminster Presbyterian Church over the course of approximately forty years, until his stroke resulted in significant handicap. He was also active in mission work on the Choctaw Indian Reservation in Watson, Oklahoma. Married to Joann Harper for 50+ years, he has also served as a volunteer and host father for the American Field Service (AFS) and hosted many foreign exchange students from around the world (including students from Greece, Switzerland, Slovakia, Thailand, Norway, and Ukraine). David also volunteered for numerous years with the Heartland Book Bank, a 501(c)(3) associated with the Telephone Pioneers of service organization. David has four children: Traci (Eric) Wolf, Brian Harper, Nathan (Amy) Harper, and Bailey Harper; and seven grandchildren and continues to be an inspiration to his family and those that know him as he battles back from the devastating effects of his recent stroke. David's therapists, nurses, and staff at the VA home in Cameron, Missouri, often comment on his kindness, gentleness, and extraordinary work ethic.

“As a 17-year-old young man, my father, David C. Harper, entered the Navy to serve his country. While serving, he also saved his income and sent much of it back to rural Missouri to assist with efforts to save the Harper family farm. Following discharge from the Navy, he went on to a prosperous career in the telecommunications industry. While his career was important to him, he has always put God and family first, often times passing up company transfer opportunities so he could be available to care for aging grandparents and parents. While diligently serving Southwestern Bell and AT&T, he also served as a constant volunteer/leader in the community through various organizations. Of note, he served many years with the Boy Scouts of America, including two terms of service for multiple years as Scoutmaster. He is also an Eagle Scout and member of the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. Many of his summer vacations were spent volunteering to mentor young men and leaders at the H. Roe Bartle Scout Reservation in Osceola, Missouri. He also took groups of Boy Scouts and Explorer Scouts to high adventure camps like the Boundary Waters, Sea Base, and Philmont. Throughout the many years of his membership at Northminster Presbyterian Church (40+), he served in various volunteer and leadership roles, until his recent stroke rendered him handicapped and requiring care 24/7. My dad was also an instrumental part of a mission team that served on the Choctaw Indian Reservation in Watson, Oklahoma, where the team constructed the Tuli Tuplow Church/Fellowship Hall. Married to my mother, Joann H. Harper, for 50+ years, he also served as a volunteer and host father with the American Field Service (AFS) by hosting numerous students from a wide variety of countries. My dad treated each foreign exchange student as his own, and each fondly referred to him as "Dad" while in our home and following. Students hosted by my dad (and mom) came from a wide range of countries, including: Greece, Switzerland, Slovakia, Norway, Thailand, and Ukraine. Throughout the years, my dad also volunteered for the Heartland Book Bank, a Telephone Pioneers service organization advancing literacy, and as a youth sports volunteer coach. To carry on his legacy of love, devotion and service, David has 4 children: Traci (Eric), Brian, Nathan (Amy), and Bailey; and 7 grandchildren: David, Caleb, Mila, Silas, Xander, Hunter, and Christian. Of note, my youngest brother, Nathan, was inspired by my dad's service in the Navy and is currently enlisted in the Navy as a corpsman/medic in Norfolk, Virginia. In the wake of a near-fatal stroke, with the steadfast support and dedication of my mom, my dad has fought against seemingly insurmountable odds, and is recognized regularly by his therapists, nurses, and doctors for continuing to maintain a gentle, patient, caring, and loving disposition, while also modeling extreme commitment to a strong work ethic in his ongoing recovery effort currently underway at the Missouri Veterans Home in Cameron, Missouri.” – Traci Wolf

The Daughters of the White Alloe Chapter DAR are proud to nominate David C. Harper as Patriot of the Month and extend their gratitude for his patriotic service and commitment to our great nation.