

# Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution



## Patriot of the Month

February 2015



Donald R. Schaffer

*Sponsored by:*

Armstrong Chapter



Donald graduated from Moberly High School in 1952 and attended Moberly Junior College, now known as Moberly Area Community College, for one and a half years before enlisting in the Army on January 26, 1954. He went to Fort Riley, Kansas, for his basic training, then on to Fort Knox, Kentucky, for infantry training. Then, he was sent to Fort Campbell, Kentucky, to Paratroopers School where he was in the 325<sup>th</sup> Airborne Infantry Regimental Combat Team. He was assigned to the 11<sup>th</sup> Airborne Division after completing Airborne Training. He was then sent to Fort Bragg, North Carolina, where he was assigned to the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division. He remained at Fort Bragg for the remainder of this tour of duty and was discharged on January 11, 1956, as a Private First Class. He received the Good Conduct Medal, Parachute Badge (Wings), and a National Defense Service Medal.

Donald recalled a humorous event that had happened while at Fort Bragg. They were practicing parachute jumps and a soldier he knew had jumped and came walking toward him from the sand dunes where he had landed. However, the soldier was carrying his main chute and reserve chute and they both had not deployed. When Don asked the soldier what had happened the soldier replied he had landed in a sand dune. Later, the soldier admitted he was joking and had swapped his deployed chutes with someone for undeployed chutes.

Donald returned to Moberly after being discharged and finished his last semester at Moberly Junior College and graduated with an Associates Degree in May 1956. Then he began work at Southwestern Bell Telephone Company as a lineman for ten years, then became part of the engineering department for twenty-four years. After being employed for thirty-four and a half years by Southwestern Bell, he retired on December 31, 1990. Donald married Donna Harlan of Moberly on June 28, 1958, and they had four children. They have three grandsons and two granddaughters.

Donald was elected to the Moberly City Council for twelve years beginning in the late 1970s. When Mayor Lionel Thompson passed, he was promoted to mayor for three years. When his term as mayor ended, he elected not to run again for the city council. He ran for a position on the board of trustees at Moberly Area Community College and was elected and served four, six year terms. He is a member of the Carpenter Street Baptist Church and the Moberly Lions Club.

The Daughters of the Armstrong Chapter DAR are proud to nominate Donald Ray Schaffer as Patriot of the Month and extend gratitude for his patriotic service and commitment to our nation.