

# Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution



## Patriot of the Month

March 2015



### Floyd Ledbetter

*Sponsored by:*

**Ozark Spring Chapter**



Floyd U Ledbetter was working in a CCC, Civilian Conservation Corp, camp at Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri, when he was inducted into the Army as a private at Jefferson Barracks, St. Louis, Missouri, in July 1944. After basic training, he was sent to Ft. Lewis, Washington, for eighteen weeks of training as a combat engineer. At Ft. Lewis, the soldiers learned how to blow up roads and bridges using TNT. Floyd said they were also taught how to build roads and bridges. One day he saw a Sherman tank fall into a hole and roll on its side. The tank managed to come back upright and climb out of the hole.

During WWII, Floyd served in Manila, Philippines. One day he found himself in a mine field full of nerve gas. The nerve gas damaged his lungs for which he received 100% disability. He also suffered pneumonia and a nervous breakdown requiring hospitalization. He is deaf in his right ear as a result of the many explosions.

For his service, Floyd received the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, the Philippine Campaign Medal, and a medal for expert marksmanship, and the National Defense ribbon.

Floyd was sent to Memphis, Tennessee, upon leaving the hospital. He then returned to West Plains, and began a logging business. He raised a team of horses that were so good that many people were envious of them and wished to purchase them. He bought his first colt, Nick for \$35.00, and then raised another named, Mack, to work with Nick. Together with Nick and Mack, he logged for the Cloud Oak Flooring Company. His second job after leaving the service was with a lumber company in Wichita, Kansas, that sold lumber to his brother-in-laws who built homes in the area. Later, he returned to West Plains and worked for a lumber company there.

After retiring, he and his wife enjoyed traveling as much and as often as possible. His daughter and her husband say that Floyd can make things out of 'next to nothing.' Floyd particularly liked making bird houses and even made one out of a helmet. Today, Floyd likes to sing songs and entertains his seven children and 20 grandchildren whenever they visit. His daughter, LaVerna Williams, is a member of Ozark Spring Chapter, DAR, West Plains, MO.

The Daughters of the Ozark Spring Chapter DAR are pleased to nominate Floyd Ledbetter as Patriot of the Month and extend their gratitude for his patriotic service and commitment to our great nation.