

# Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution



## Patriot of the Month

March 2015



**Ralph Shackelford**

*Sponsored by:*

**Platte Purchase Chapter**



Sergeant Ralph Shackelford, a farm boy and life-long resident of Platte County, entered the service in 1942. He was working at Corn Products in North Kansas City when he was drafted into the Army at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. He trained at Camp Funston, Kansas, as well as at Camp Ibis in California. After his training, he was sent to Europe in 1943. Once in Europe, his unit, the A Company, 27th Armored Battalion, 9th Armored Division, made its way to Belgium and the Battle of the Bulge. After fighting their way into France, the 9th Armored captured the Siegfried Line. They then fought the Battle of Remagen and captured the Remagen Bridge. This established the first bridgehead across the Rhine, and hastened the end of the War. Ralph was discharged in February of 1946 having received for his service: two Bronze Stars, the Combat Infantry Badge, Presidential Unit Citation with Bronze Star, Meritorious Unit Citation, the WWII Victory Medal, and the Army of Occupation Medal.

After his discharge, Ralph made his way home and began a job with Ford Motor Company making wings for the B-47. Beginning in 1950, he worked at TWA as a mechanic until he retired in 1981. Ralph married his wife Mary Edna on May 18, 1947. She passed away on May 16, 2012, after nearly 65 years of marriage. Ralph worked with the 4-H Club in Platte City for many years teaching horsemanship. In recognition of his dedication to the Club, an arena at the Platte County Fairgrounds was named in his honor. He is also a member of VFW Post 4055, and the Farley Masonic Lodge. He is of the Christian faith and is a member of Platte Woods United Methodist Church. He is also a former member of the Sons of the American Revolution.

Ralph continues to serve his community even today by having a military display about his service that he exhibits at different events. One may even be lucky enough to meet him personally, still proudly wearing his original uniform, as he educates a new generation on what it means to truly serve their country.

The Daughters of the Platte Purchase Chapter DAR are proud to nominate Ralph B. Shackelford as Patriot of the Month and extend their gratitude for his patriotic service and commitment to our great nation.



Ralph continues to serve his community. He still proudly wears his original uniform, as he teaches a new generation about what it means to truly serve one's nation. This display was created by Ralph for the local library.