

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution



Patriot of the Month

June 2015



Ralph Butler

Sponsored by:

Matilda Polk Chapter



Ralph Butler and his only sibling, twin brother Raymond, grew up around Dunnegan, Missouri, and graduated from Humansville High School in 1948. Upon graduation, Ralph went to work at a Phillips Station in Springfield, Missouri.

Ralph and Raymond were both drafted in the Army the summer of 1951. The two brothers went through boot camp together at Camp Chaffee, Arkansas. They made friends with three other men from the Southwest Missouri area. Since Ralph had a 1948 Fleetline Chevrolet he ensured that the five of them came home on leave every weekend. Ralph had married his sweetheart, Glendena Squibb, the day after he had passed his military physical so it was important to him to make that trip home.

After boot camp Ralph and Raymond both went through leadership school together. Both were assigned to spend the next 15 months as Section Chief's in the Charley Battery. This unit provided support to the Second Infantry. Ralph was the Section Chief of Number 3 and Raymond the Section Chief of Number 5. Their unit was located north of the 38th Parallel in Korea. There were 6 sections in the Charley Battery. Each Section Chief was responsible for 15 men. The sections were arranged in a zig-zag pattern; thus, making it difficult for the brothers to see each other.

Ralph remembers that this area was very cold in the winter. The temperature would remain at 30 below for several days as a time. There bunkers were made of wood and heavily sandbagged. The lighting and heat source for the bunker was a candle and he doesn't remember ever taking his boots off while he was stationed in this area.

Ralph also remembers the 72 hour bombardment that the Charley Battery participated in. All of the 105 artillery was lined up and shot non-stop for 72 hours. No one slept and everyone had to assist. The artillery barrels would get so hot that they would turn red and have to be replaced. When this operation was completed it resulted in accomplishing the goal that it was designed for but at the price of Ralph having permanent hearing loss in his right ear. The empty mortar shells were stacked higher than a human and stretched for than a mile.

Unfortunately, Ralph broke a tooth while he was stationed in Korea. He stated that the dental assistant had to peddle the device that would make the drill function and once again the source of illumination was a candle. They didn't give him anything for the pain and finally the dentist removed the remainder of the broken tooth with a ballpein hammer and small chisel. Ralph received one 3 day RR to Seoul. He spent those three days waiting for the pay telephone to be unoccupied so he could call his wife. The call cost him \$35.00 for 3 minutes. When there rotation was coming to an end there were only a set number of men that could leave at one time. So every man had to draw a slip of paper out of a helmet to see if they would be returning in the first waive. Ralph was lucky and drew a ticket home. However, his brother was not as lucky so Ralph threw his slip back in the helmet. He wasn't coming home until he and his brother could come home together. Ralph stated that he and his brother came to Korea together and they were going home together. Thirty days later Ralph and Raymond boarded a ship for the United States. Sgt. First Class Butler returned home from Korea with a Purple Heart and two Bronze Stars as well as some other medals.

Upon his arrival home, Ralph's father-in-law asked him to become a partner in his farm near Rondo, Missouri. Ralph accepted. As the years passed by Ralph bought out his father-in-law's interest. He still successfully operates his farm with his lovely wife Cathy. In civilian life Ralph has used his leadership skills that he obtained through the military by serving for several years on the Board of Mid Am, Bolivar Farmers Exchange, Soil and Water, Special Road District as well as some others. Polk County has been blessed by him being a part of our community for the past 86 years.

The Daughters of the Matilda Polk Chapter DAR are proud to nominate Ralph Butler as Patriot of the Month and extend their gratitude for his patriotic service and commitment to our great nation.