

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution



Patriot of the Month

June 2015



David Nilges

Sponsored by:

Saint Charles Chapter



My father, David Lee Nilges, was born in a small town on the Missouri River, Osage City, on January 24, 1933. During his early grade school years his family moved to Moberly, Missouri, where he attended grade school, high school, and finished his Junior and Senior years of high at Moberly Junior College.

David enlisted in the U.S. Air Force shortly after graduation. His U.S. Air Force training included: basic training in San Antonio, Texas, and vehicle maintenance training in Camp Breckenridge, Kentucky. His duty locations were: Itazuki AFB, Fukaoka, Japan, and Biggs AFB, El Paso, Texas. He was awarded the Sharp Shooter Medal and the Korean Veterans Medal.

During a tour overseas, he was fortunate not to see combat, but rather supported the troops on the lines as a mechanic at Itazuki Air Force Base. He told me that when they arrived in Japan, they were taken off a train and told to count off to some number. The count off ended with the man in front of him. All of those who counted off were put back on the train and shipped to Korea with no consideration from the type of training they had received. The rest remained in Japan, including my father.

He worked nearly his entire career as a diesel mechanic for Western Trucking Company until it closed its doors; however, because of his ingenuity and work ethic, he was always fully employed until he chose to retire. As a retiree, he still enjoys shooting as he apparently did when he earned his Sharp Shooter Medal, and he supports the VFW in their fundraising efforts through participation in their "meat shoots."

Written by Theresa Risch, Daughter of the American Revolution, Saint Charles Chapter DAR. The Daughters of the Saint Charles Chapter DAR are proud to nominate David Nilges as Patriot of the Month and extend their gratitude for his patriotic service and commitment to our great nation.