

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution



Patriot of the Month

July 2015



Dr. Donald S. Overend, MD

Sponsored by:

Rachel Donelson Chapter



Don Overend is one of the most beloved men in Springfield, Missouri.

Don grew up and attended schools in Wichita, Kansas, graduating high school at the age of fifteen and entering Wichita State University. He left college to enlist in the U.S. Navy in September 1944, when he was seventeen and a half years old.

While in boot camp at Great Lakes Naval Training Center, Don was in the Blue Jackets Choir in boot camp. His other duty stations included Farragut, Idaho, Hospital Corps School; Oakland, California; and Honolulu, Hawaii. He was attached to the Marine Corps as a pharmacist's mate. He was one of two corpsmen to enter Nagasaki, Japan, within the first few days after the atomic bomb was dropped there. Besides treating Marines, he helped at the Japanese hospital with flashburns and the effects of the devastation for seven months.

Among the medals and citations Don received was the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Unit Citation. He achieved the rank of 3rd Class Petty Officer Pharmacist's mate.

After discharge in August 1946, Don returned to Wichita State University. He received his medical degree in 1954 from the University of Kansas. Don reenlisted in the Navy during the Korean War, serving an internship at the naval hospital in San Diego.

In 1957, Don moved to Springfield as the first ever pediatrician at Smith-Glynn-Callaway Clinic, where he helped care for a large percentage of the children in town during his 45 years of practice.

Don and his wife, Linda Sue Masters Overend, have three children, seven grandchildren, and five great grandchildren. He is a member of All Saints Anglican Church, the Springfield Symphony, CADUCEUS (the Doctor's Band), Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, American Orchid Society and American Beekeeper's Association, among others.

It is because of the decades of devotion by patriots like Dr. Don that America is the wonderful country it is. He is an inspiration to us all.

The Rachel Donelson Chapter DAR is honored to nominate Dr. Donald S. Overend, MD, for Patriot of the Month.