

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution



Patriot of the Month

August 2015



Cheryl Ann Van Houten Cheek

Sponsored by:

Margaret Miller Chapter



Cheryl graduated from Moberly High School in May 1975 and graduated from Moberly Junior College with an Associate of Arts Degree in May 1977. In May 2008, she completed her Bachelor of Business Administration Degree from LeTourneau University. Prior to military service, she worked for the *Moberly Monitor Index* delivering papers as the first paper girl, eventually became a proofreader, learned to typeset and develop film of the newspaper pages, and later became a bookkeeper for the paper.

Cheryl entered the U.S. Air Force in Kansas City, Missouri, on May 23, 1977. After completing basic training at Lackland AFB in San Antonio, Texas, she headed to Biloxi, Mississippi, for 30353 Automatic Tracking Radar Repairman, electronics training, at Keesler AFB. While at Keesler AFB Cheryl joined the drill team and worked her way to Squad Leader of the Drill Team and successfully lead the team to win the Drill Down Team competition. Cheryl graduated from training in January 1978 and was then stationed at Nellis AFB the 554th Range Group Tactical Air Command (TAC) in Las Vegas, Nevada, where she reached the rank of Sergeant. She remained at Nellis AFB until May 22, 1982, the end of her four year enlistment. While stationed at Nellis AFB she was deployed weekly to Beatty, Nevada, where she traveled each day out into the desert to the Tolicha Peak Electronic Warfare Range participating in Operation Red Flag, operating and maintaining a multi-million dollar M-33 radar system. The Red Flag training mission was developed to help train military pilots, from the U.S. and other countries, for real time ground threat radar attacks and tactical response through participation in Operation Red Flag exercises should a real time war occur. The last year of her enlistment she spent on Nellis AFB working the Maintenance Control section monitoring radar maintenance and repair of the range.

During her enlistment she successfully completed OJT Manager Supervisor Orientation training, High Reliability Soldering and Connections Course, and Noncommissioned Officer training. Cheryl was awarded the Air Force Good Conduct Medal and the Air Force Longevity Service Award, and several letters of appreciation. May 22, 1981, Cheryl was honorably discharged from the Air Force.

Cheryl met her husband, Robert, while enlisted in the military, and they were married April 26, 1980, in Moberly, Missouri. They have two children and two grandchildren. Upon the end of her enlistment, she worked in Las Vegas for three years for Arcata, a civilian contractor to the Air Force, as a liaison. Next, she worked for Hometown Builders in Texas, as a manager of the accounts payable group. While living in Amarillo, Texas, she spent ten years as an office manager/administrator for Herring Design Group. She spent seven years working in Norman, Oklahoma for Loewen Group managing a multi-million dollar investment fund for prefunded funeral expense plans. In January 2000, she joined Carter & Burgess, Inc., as the office manager. Later, she worked for Carter & Burgess in Fort Worth, Texas, becoming a procurement specialist over the West Coast division. Carter & Burgess, Inc., was purchased by Jacobs Engineering in 2007, at which time Cheryl became a procurement subcontract administrator. She continues to work remotely for Jacobs and has fifteen total combined years with the company.

Cheryl attends the First United Methodist Church in Texas. She has volunteered for the past four years at the church and has organized Alpha, a twice annually, fourteen week course, which explores life's big questions. She also provided data entry skills as a volunteer for several of the church's fundraisers. She was an active member of the Sunday School class. She was an also active member of the Institute of Supply Management for several years while working for Carter & Burgess. In October 2014, Cheryl and her husband moved to Missouri. They enjoy being with family and friends.

The Daughters of the Margaret Miller Chapter DAR are proud to nominate Cheryl Ann Van Houten Cheek as Patriot of the Month and extend their gratitude for her service to our country.