

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution



Patriot of the Month

August 2015



George C. Kelley

Sponsored by:

Caroline Close Stuart Chapter



George Kelley entered the service in Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia on February 18, 1943. He served in the 8th Air Force as a Navigator on a B17 Bomber out of Ridgewell, England. In January 1945, while flying a mission in to Germany, his B-17 was struck by flak and thrown off course, and the crew was forced to bail out close to the German/French border. They landed in Germany and had to hike to safety. Upon arrival in Paris, they saw General Patton and the Third Army Corp on parade. George thought they were most impressive in their armored vehicles. Because parachutes were made of silk at that time, he was inducted with admission in to the Caterpillar Club. While attending an Air Force Reunion fifty years later, the bombardier on George's flight told his daughter that George was a real hero, as his navigation skills were what saved their lives. George never felt of himself as a hero, but as a 19 year old sent to war to do a job, and he did it to the best of his ability.

George received an Air Medal with one Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster and a European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Service Medal. He was discharged with honor from Camp Gordon, Georgia, on October 7, 1945.

Upon separation from the service, he attended Georgia Technical Institute of Technology in Atlanta, Georgia, and received a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Engineering in May, 1949. On October 7, 1946, he married Jeanne Lindee, and they had four children. They moved from Atlanta, Georgia, in 1954 to St. Louis, Missouri, where he has resided for the past 61 years. He and his bride will celebrate 70 years of marriage in October of this year. His wife and daughter, Kathleen Kelley Franklin, are both members of the Caroline Close Chapter DAR in Lake St. Louis, Missouri. Kathleen found it very interesting to learn about her father's service to our country.

His most celebrated community service is in his love and devotion to family. He served as an Indian Guides leader, as an usher at church and as a Sunday School teacher for many years.

Upon his retirement, he served as the store manager for Feed My People, a local community food pantry and thrift shop. In 2014, he was one of the lucky World War II veterans to participate in an Honor Flight to Washington, DC.

The Daughters of the Caroline Close Stuart Chapter DAR are proud to nominate George Clifton Kelley as Patriot of the Month and extend their gratitude for his patriotic service and commitment to our great nation.