

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution



Patriot of the Month

September 2015



George S. Kemp

Sponsored by:

John Griffith Chapter DAR



George Kemp served as a sergeant in the 157th U.S. Army Air Corps. He entered the U.S. Army Air Corps on February 25, 1943. His basic training was in Miami, Florida, then in Detroit, Michigan, for turret training on the B24 bombers. Later that year, he was shipped to Southern Italy. It took 30 days of high seas for the ship George was on board to arrive, because the 100 ships were avoiding mines below the ocean's surface. George was in Italy the whole time he was stationed overseas, and he lived in tents for two years. He worked on B24 turrets, keeping them in perfect working order. The planes flew 287 missions. There were 15 to 18 planes in each squadron. George received the Service Medal in the European Theater, and he was discharged on September 8, 1945, at Jefferson Barracks, Missouri.

Soon after George returned from the serving his country, he bought a gas station/store which he operated with his brother and brother-in-law. A few years later they left the business, and George worked the store by himself. He met and married Arlene Eiman Kemp on March 17, 1952. George and Arlene did not have children, but the community became their extended family. They would always ask each patron how they were and how their family was doing.

George operated the store until he was 91 years old. Often George would see to it that families who had fallen on hard times would have groceries or gasoline. George has quietly provided scholarships for young people in the community to continue their education and earn degrees. George and Arlene donated money to local churches in the area and monies and land to the Avenue City Elementary School. The store has not been opened on Sundays since the early 1970s. "I'm sure travelers are shocked that the store is not opened when they pull in for gas," said George.

In his free time, George loved to fly his Cessna plane and ride motorcycles. He stopped riding the motorcycle when he crashed and broke a hip. George is admired by many families in the community. His minister states that George always has a smile on his face and feels very blessed every day!

The Daughters of the John Griffith Chapter DAR are proud to nominate George S. Kemp as Patriot of the Month and extend their sincere gratitude for his patriotic service and commitment to our great nation.