

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution



Patriot of the Month

October 2015



Robert E. Cheek, Jr.

Sponsored by:

Margaret Miller Chapter



Robert Cheek attended Alamo High School and completed his GED from Texas State Technical Institute in Amarillo, Texas. He attended Clark County Community College and later Austin Community College studying business management and construction. He entered the U.S. Air Force in Anchorage, Alaska, on May 30, 1975. After completing basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas, he headed to Biloxi, Mississippi, for 30373 automatic Tracking Radar Technician electronics training at Keesler AFB. He graduated from training in 1976 and was then stationed at Nellis Air Force Base the 554th Range Group Tactical Air Command (TAC) in Las Vegas, Nevada, where he reached the rank of Staff Sergeant. He remained at Nellis AFB until May 29, 1981, the end of his six year enlistment. While stationed at Nellis Air Force Base, he was deployed weekly to Beatty, Nevada, where he traveled each day out into the dessert to the Tolicha Peak Electronic Warfare Range participating in Operation Red Flag, operating and maintaining a multi-million dollar M-33 radar system.

He was instrumental in the start up of the range operations and has a mountain named after him on the range, Cheek Butte. The Red Flag training mission was developed to help train military pilots from the US and other countries for real time air to air ground threat radar attacks and tactical response through participation in Operation Red Flag training exercises should a real time war occur. While deployed to Tolicha Peak he had several temporary duty assignments. He was deployed to Fort Irwin ARB NE of Barstow, California, for a joint training exercise with the Army, later deployed to Area 51 Nevada Test and Training range for additional training exercises and to Cannon Air Force Base for missile guidance testing. The last year of his enlistment he spent on Nellis AFB as range coordinator. During his enlistment he completed the Digital Techniques course, Air Force Supervisor course, High Reliability Soldering and Connection course, noncommissioned officer training, and 37 week automatic tracking radar repairman course. He was awarded the Good Conduct Medal with one Oak Leaf cluster, the Air Force Longevity Service Award, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, and letters of appreciation. He was honorably discharged from the Air Force on May 29, 1981. Upon the end of his enlistment, Robert remained in Las Vegas for three years working for Arcata and Associates, as a maintenance operator for a Television Optical Scoring System for the Air Force at Range 63, Nevada.

Life took Robert to different areas, and he has held several jobs. He has worked as a residential electrician at Neal Electric in Round, Texas; as a project manager for Axiom Energy; as a maintenance specialist at Wonderland Amusement Park in Amarillo, Texas, and as a part-time fleet service clerk for American Airlines. In 1996, working for American Airlines, he became fleet service crew chief at Oklahoma City International Airport for eight years. In 2004, his career with American Airlines took him to DFW Airport in Dallas, Texas, where he is currently employed.

Robert is married to Cheryl, and they have two children and grandchildren. Robert is a member of the First United Methodist Church in Texas. He is an active member of the New Beginnings Sunday School class at the church. He is an active member of the Transport Workers Union.

The Daughters of the Margaret Miller Chapter DAR are proud to nominate Robert E. Cheek, Jr. as Patriot of the Month and extend their gratitude for his patriotic service and commitment to our great nation.