

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution



Patriot of the Month

November 2015



Kathleen Lee

Sponsored by:

Alexander Doniphan Chapter



Kathleen "Kathy" Lee joined the U.S. Army during her senior year of nurse's training. After passing her RN boards, she was commissioned as a 2nd lieutenant and was assigned to Walter Reed Army Medical Center. After nine months, she volunteered to go to Vietnam.

Arriving in Vietnam, Kathy was assigned to the 312th Evacuation Hospital in Chu Lai. Being the first line of medical treatment for both U.S. and Vietnamese soldiers, the personnel of the 312th, including Kathy, were responsible for the initial care for the injured. During her tour at the 312th, the unit suffered the first and only fatality to the Nursing Corps in Vietnam.

Upon returning from Vietnam in January 1970 Kathy resigned her commission and received an honorable discharge at Fort Devens, Massachusetts. She earned a National Defense Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Cross of Gallantry (Vietnam) with palm, and Medical Unit Citation.

Kathy was not satisfied that her nursing duties were over. She stayed in nursing, working all aspects of the job. After a career of thirty-two years of nursing, she left the nursing field to work in the area that had become a new love for her. In 2000, Kathy became a veterans benefits service officer. For the next twelve years, she worked tirelessly with the VFW at the Veterans Hospital in Kansas City helping veterans get their benefits. She helped over 10,000 veterans during this time.

Also, during those twelve years that Kathy was working with the veterans she was a member of the VFW and held multiple positions. She was a member of the American Business Women's Association, Vietnam Veterans of America, Military Officers Association, Elks, and The Focus Group at the Kansas City Veterans Association of the Kansas City Veterans Hospital.

On April 1, 2014, Kathy retired. She faced physical health challenges relating to her service in Vietnam. She has been the recipient of a bone marrow transplant. She is surrounded with love by her husband, Don, of forty-three years, her two sons, and a daughter-in-law, and three grandchildren.

The Daughters of the Alexander Doniphan Chapter DAR are proud to nominate Kathleen "Kathy" Lee as Patriot of the Month and extend their gratitude for her patriotic service and commitment to our great nation.