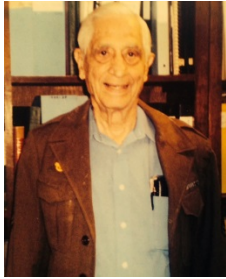


# Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution



## Patriot of the Month

November 2015



Franklin G. Weary III

*Sponsored by:*

Allen-Morton-Watkins Chapter



A senior in high school on December 7, 1941, F.G. Weary enlisted after his graduation. He attended Wentworth Military Academy in Lexington while he waited his call to active duty. He was inducted into active duty at Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas, and transferred to Camp Roberts in the California desert for his basic training where he earned a Sharpshooter Badge. As D-Day approached, he was transferred to Camp Gruber in Oklahoma for additional training before overseas assignment. He arrived in France on December 9, 1944. Before leaving for overseas duty, F.G. married his high school sweetheart, Sarah Denning, on August 1944. They remained happily married until her death over 59 years later.

F.G. was transferred from the 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Task Force to the 90<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division on Christmas Day 1944. A week later, the 90<sup>th</sup> moved to Belgium in response to German movement that became the Battle of the Bulge. All but three members (all officers) of his original company in the 42<sup>nd</sup> were lost in action during that battle. At the end of January 1945 there were thirteen men left from fifty-seven of the two platoons in the 90<sup>th</sup> that he had joined on Christmas, but the Germans had started a full retreat. F.G. received a promotion to sergeant responsible for two squads and by the end of February was officially promoted to section sergeant consistent with his responsibilities.

During the rest of 1945 until the end of hostilities in Europe, the 90<sup>th</sup> Infantry chased the 11<sup>th</sup> Panzer Division through Belgium, France, across the Siegfried Line and into Germany. The Panzers continued their retreat from the 90<sup>th</sup> across Germany and into Czechoslovakia where they surrendered on May 4. Since the Russians were to occupy Czechoslovakia, the 90<sup>th</sup> Infantry was pulled back into Germany near Nuremberg. F.G. and his unit were assigned various duties in the area including responsibility for securing the German High Command for the Nuremberg War Trails. F.G. served as rotating Sergeant of the Guard for the trails, and on several occasions accompanied Admiral Doenitz to meetings with his attorney. Doenitz was the German commander who ordered the surrender of the German forces, and he was one of two defendants that did not receive the death penalty.

F.G. was preparing to transfer to Japan when the Japanese surrendered in August 1945. Instead he was transferred to the First Army (Big Red One) until his three year commitment was up in March 1946.

F.G. resumed civilian life by attending the University of Missouri – Columbia that Fall. He graduated with a Business Degree and returned to Richmond to work with his father in the family businesses.

He started the Hiway 13 Drive-In in 1950 and the Hiway 13 Bowl in 1958. With these and other family businesses, F.G. continued to give back to the community through events like opening the drive-in for sunrise Easter services and installing a swimming pool to allow young area children to bowl and swim free during summer months. He joined the Kiwanis Club and served in many officer capacities. While president of the local club, F.G. and Don Jackson collaborated to form the Kiwanis Theater Guild that began staging and fundraising musicals at the family-owned Farris Theater in 1963; this effort continues today, and F.G. continues to participate as a "comedy relief" actor in these productions.

At age 91, F.G. continues to have an active family life as well. Although he lost the love of his life in 2002, he remains close to his two sons, five grandchildren and twelve great grandchildren. He can still be seen occasionally driving his 1957 retractable hardtop convertible on his twice-weekly trips to the local health club. The car is a frequent participant in area parades in keeping with his efforts to give back to the community. He remains an active member of the United Methodist Church. A true patriot who did his duty as part of the "greatest generation," F.G. continues his numerous activities to support the community.

The Daughters of the Allen-Morton-Watkins Chapter DAR are proud to nominate Franklin G. Weary III as Patriot of the Month and extend their gratitude for his patriotic service and commitment to our great nation.