

# Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution



## Patriot of the Month

December 2015



Allen Langston

*Sponsored by:*

Webster Groves Chapter



It is a great honor for this chapter regent to nominate Allen Langston for Patriot of the Month. Although Allen worked at the Saint Louis Art Museum, I did not meet him until he joined the docent program as a volunteer. After he started leading tours, he quickly developed a great reputation among his fellow docents. Allen is prompt, dependable, prepares his assigned tours well, and tailors each of them to the group he is leading. Also, Allen has an excellent command of information and shares his knowledge with enthusiasm. All of these characteristics are the mark of a good docent.

While at the Art Museum, Allen Langston and Ed Nickels, both museum docents and Vietnam veterans, had a terrific idea---they wanted to give special tours on Veterans Day weekend for Veterans and their families. Each man picked his own paintings and objects and talked about them in a way that no other docent could. They made associations with the art that could only have been made by a man who had been in military service and on the battlefield. I went on Allen's tour and I thought it was wonderful. A really large group of people came to the Art Museum to hear a veteran's "take" on art. I loved watching the Veterans nod their heads in agreement when Allen would make an insightful observation. I have been a docent since 1988, and I was thrilled to learn new information and to look at paintings and sculptures with a fresh eye. The St. Louis Art Museum is fortunate to have Allen Langston in the docent program.

In April, 1965, Allen Langston entered the Air Force and was at McConnell Air Force Base in Kansas. Allen's service job was Nuclear Weapon Security and his duty locations were Kansas, Vietnam, New Mexico, Maryland, N. Dakota, Nebraska, and the Mapping Agency in St. Louis, Mo.

As a result of his combat experience, Allen received many medals and ribbons.

U.S. Medals: Silver Star, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (AF), Joint Service Commendation Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

U.S. ribbons (only): Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, Air Force Longevity Service Award, Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon.

RVN Medals: Gallantry Cross, Honor Medal-1st class, Civic Actions Medal, RVN/Gallantry Cross with Palm (Unit citation).

After 21 years in the Air Force, Allen was discharged in Saint Louis, Missouri, in May, 1986. In civilian life, Allen worked at General Dynamics, Western Union, Emmanuel Episcopal Church, and the Saint Louis Art Museum. Since retiring, Allen has been a docent at the Saint Louis Art Museum and a docent and volunteer at the Mercantile Library. Allen is also a member of the Air Force Association. Allen is happily married to his wife, Marilyn, and they have five wonderful children.

Regent Caroline Van Scoyoc Greene and the Daughters of the Webster Groves Chapter DAR are proud to nominate Allen Langston as Patriot of the Month and extend their gratitude for his patriotic service and commitment to our great nation.