

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution



Patriot of the Month

March 2016



Matthew G. Rippen

Sponsored by:

William White Chapter



Matt entered the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1992 and graduated a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force. His pilot training was at Vance AFB, Enid, Oklahoma. He was an instructor pilot at Columbus AFB, Columbus, Mississippi. His F-15 Eagle assignment was at Eglin AFB, Valparaiso, Florida. He was in Pusan, South Korea, for a year at Gimhae AFB as a functional test pilot. In 2005 he joined the Louisiana National Guard full time at Belle Chase Naval Air Base. Matt is the 159th Operations Group Commander.

Lt. Col. Rippen has flown the F-15 Eagle over Washington, D.C. after Sept 11 and protected the space shuttle prior to launch. He sat Quick Reaction Alert under the command of NORAD protecting the U.S. including several notable missions protecting Air Force 1 and Marine 1. He also flew combat in IRAQ in 2003 during the 'Shock and Awe" portion at the beginning of the invasion. Lt. Col. Rippen has flown the F-15 Eagle all over the world: Korea, Thailand, Japan, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Jordan, Israel, Bulgaria, Hungary, Spain, United Kingdom, Chile and the United States. He has logged over 2000 hours in the F-15 Eagle. Notable decorations are the Combat Action Medal, The Meritorious Service Medal and the Air Medal.

Matt met his wife, Anita, in Columbus, Mississippi. They were married in Destin, Florida. They lived in Pusan, S. Korea for a year. New Orleans has been home since Hurricane Katrina where he served in the National Guard protecting the city during the devastation. His wife is a teacher and they have two daughters. He continues to serve his country.

The Daughters of the William White Chapter DAR are proud to nominate Matthew G. Rippen as Patriot of the Month and extend their gratitude for his patriotic service and commitment to our great nation.