

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution



Patriot of the Month

April 2016



Dan Avery

Sponsored by:

Armstrong Chapter



Dan graduated from Sunnydale Academy High School, Centralia, in 1968 and attended Moberly Junior College, now known as Moberly Area Community College, for 1-1/2 years. Dan was drafted into the Army on August 19, 1969, received basic training at Ft. Sam Houston, Texas and received training as a medical corpsman there, also. In January 1970, he flew to Oakland, California, then was sent to Saigon in Vietnam, two days later he was sent to Da Nang and two days later on to Qui Nhon which sets in the South China Sea. This is where he stayed during the duration of his time in Vietnam and worked in the dispensary while he was at Qui Nhon. The hospital in the compound in Qui Nhon was an evacuation hospital and this is where the soldiers were sent until they had recovered to go back to duty or be sent back to the United States. Once a month, the dispensary was in charge of any trips to any outlying villages visited by two RN's and two medics to help any Vietnamese people who might need medical care. Dan was one of the medics going on these trips once a month.

Dan shared a humorous story which happened the day he reported to the draft board at the Moberly Post Office. There were some draftees going to Kansas for their physical and six were being inducted. The ones going for physicals were told to go outside and get on the bus which they did. The six being inducted were being given a talk by the chaplain and received Bibles. When they came out to get on the bus, it was gone. Vi Rippel, head of the draft board loaded the six inductees into her car and they took off to catch the bus and caught it at Salisbury, Missouri.

Another story shared was one morning about 2 a.m. in Qui Nhon they were attacked by mortar fire. They were awakened and ordered to their bunkers. The bunker Dan was in was packed when an officer came and ordered all the men out of the bunker, so the female nurses could use it, because the bunker the female nurses were to use was flooded.

When Dan was ready to be processed out of the country, he was sent to Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam for out processing which took about one week. After the paperwork was done, the soldier waited and waited and waited. Then, when you finally heard your name and number over the intercom you went to the boarding area to board a commercial airliner back to the USA. Dan left Cam Ranh Bay and landed in Tokyo for a

few hours, then off again to the Sea-Tac Airport and was taken to Ft. Lewis, Washington where he was processed out of the Army into the inactive reserves for 4 years. Then, he boarded a plane to Kansas City where he took a bus home to Moberly. He was discharged with the rank of Specialist 4 on March 23, 1971.

He received the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Commendation Medal w/60 Device and 2 O/S Bars and a Good Conduct Medal. He is a member of the Moberly VFW where he is commander of the post serving in his fifth year as commander. His greatest interest is in post 2654 at Moberly and working with the flag raisings at Oakland Cemetery.

Dan married Elaine Williams on May 18, 1974 at the Moberly First Baptist Church. After being discharged from the military, he worked at the Moberly Monitor Index as Circulation Manager for ten years, DuPont for ten years and the Booneville Casino as Supervisor of Food and Beverage for ten years, retiring in 2010.

The members of the Armstrong Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution wish to extend our gratitude and thanks to Dan W. Avery for his service to our great country.