

# Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution



## Patriot of the Month

May 2016



*Don Roush*

Sponsored by:

John Sappington Chapter



Don was drafted into the U.S. Army to serve in the Korean War. He served on the front line in a heavily shelled trench in Korea. He served as a corporal and had seventeen men in his squad. They had a very clear view of the North Korean trench, directly across from theirs, that also contained the Chinese Army. In the distance they could see the Sea of Japan. They were in such close proximity, the enemy used loudspeakers and bullhorns to communicate with the Americans. Sometimes the voices were heavily accented, sometimes they spoke perfect English and late at night and in the wee hours of the morning they would hear "GI, in your home town, in your little church, your parents are looking at your coffin and picture." They were so close to the enemy that on two occasions, the North Koreans climbed into the US trench and bayoneted GI's.

Don received a Purple Heart on September 5, 1952. About six weeks later, on October 27, 1952, he was awarded an Oak Leaf Cluster, a second Purple Heart. He also received the following medals and awards: United Nations Service Medal with Bronze Service Star, Combat Infantry Badge, Korea Ministry of Patriots Affairs Medal, Korean Veterans Association Medal, United Nations Overseas Belgian Government Medal, American National Defense Service Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, and Army Infantry Stamp Medal. He was honorably discharged June 7, 1953, from the 5th Regimental Combat Team in Punchbowl Korea.

Don is eighty-five years old but still very active. He and his wife are involved with their church. He is also active with the local VA. He attends a small veterans group every week at Jefferson Barracks VA. He is the only remaining Korean vet in the group. The others served in Vietnam. He assists with the American Legion's Poppy Days. One of his most interesting volunteer activities is working "Daisy Days." Six weekends during the summer, the Korean War veterans chapters ask some of the members to collect money for the veterans home in Anna, Illinois.

The Daughters of the John Sappington Chapter DAR are proud to nominate Don Roush as Patriot of the Month and extend their gratitude for his patriotic service and commitment to our great nation.