

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution



Patriot of the Month

June 2016



Patty Locher

Sponsored by:

Prairie Chapter



Patty entered Officer Training School in San Antonio, Texas, and received her commission in 1968 and was assigned to Intelligence Technical School at Lowry AFB. She served in many locations including Defense Intelligence Agency in Washington, D.C. The highlight of her career was in 1973 at Shepherd AFB, as part of Operation Homecoming, the repatriation and debriefing of the returning Vietnam POWs. Her duties included proofreading the IBM cards of each POW's experience and debriefing.

Decorations and awards received by Patty include: The Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters (OLC), Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Valor and 7 OLC, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal w/7 OLC, Air Force Overseas Short Tour Ribbon w/1 OLC, Air Force Overseas Long Tour Ribbon, Air Force Longevity Service Award Ribbon w/4 OLC, Air Force Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon, Air Force Training Ribbon, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with palm and 2 bronze service stars, and Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

Patty and her husband Roger have devoted their retirement to working tirelessly on behalf of veterans' causes. They spend many hours researching the records of veterans lost in past wars and sharing their information with the families. Patty's work as a writer for the Sabetha Herald has brought her in contact with many of these families. She conceived and wrote a series on local women in the military, as well as local active duty women, totaling 25 articles. Then she began a series on local men who dies in military service during wartime, active duty men and men veterans. She has also written many patriotic and veteran-related editorials. As a member of VFW Post #7285, she was the first women member in 2003, and then was elected post commander and reelected a year later. Patty became Mistress of Ceremonies for the Post's annual Memorial Day Service and has been a speaker at that event. She is a life member of the VFW, and assists with providing military honors for veteran's funerals locally.

In 2003, Patty conceived the idea of a Veterans Breakfast, sponsored by the VFW, as a local tribute to veterans in the area. It continues to this day and is well-attended. She also proposed that the VFW host a Navajo Code Talker as a speaker to their post. This event was also embraced by the community and attention was brought to the service and contributions of veterans during World War II. Patty has spoken about her experiences during the Vietnam Conflict at many meetings, and hopes to educate students and others about the role of the military during this time of American history. She has been a strong advocate for raising the profile of veterans in the local community.

The Lochers contacted Mary Dobson's family when researching background about Mary's uncle, who was killed in action in the south Pacific during World War II. Patty used much of the information about the memorabilia in one of her series of articles about local men who died in military service during wartime.

Patty is dedicated to her community, as a life member of the VFW, and with other agencies in the area. Her selfless attitude towards service is an inspiration to all who want to make a difference. Her experience as a veteran provides the empathy and understanding that is key to working with that wonderful group of Americans, who gave so much for their country.

Prairie Chapter DAR is proud to nominate Patty Locher as Patriot of the Month and extends gratitude for her patriotic service to our great country.