

# Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution



## Patriot of the Month

June 2016



*Howard W. Williams*

Sponsored by:

Ozark Spring Chapter



SFC E-7 Howard W Williams entered the U.S. Army at Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri. After basic training he was assigned to medical specialist training at Ft. Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas. Following medical training, Howard was assigned as a medic at Fort Lewis, Washington, for eleven months before receiving his orders to Vietnam in 1969. He served as a platoon medic, then senior medic, both with Bravo Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 5<sup>th</sup> Calvary.

While in Vietnam, Howard's platoon of the 5<sup>th</sup> Calvary Division was ambushed by nine Viet Cong (VC). He was walking fifth man in a platoon file. The first four men were shot. SP4 Williams survived with just bullet holes that went in the front of his helmet and out the rear. The round went through his hair, but he was not wounded. He continued providing treatment to those team members who were wounded. Two platoon machine guns moved forward to provide support until the aggression ceased.

Howard had an eleven year break to civilian life after Vietnam. He then returned to the Missouri Army National Guard assigned to an MP Company as a Civil Service employee, serving as a Supply Sergeant. After three years, he returned to active duty with the National Guard (AGR), serving as Platoon Sergeant/ Training NCO with the MP's. Throughout his twenty one year duty career, Howard also served as a Recruiter, a NBC NCO for a battalion, an instructor, as well as a Master Fitness Trainer. SFC Williams retired April 2003.

SFC Williams final duty assignment was with the 7<sup>th</sup> Civil Support Team. This was a team of twenty-two personnel, half Army, half Air Force, consisting of both men and women under the Governor of Missouri, 7<sup>th</sup> CST-WMD (Weapons of Mass Destruction). His job assignment for the last four years was to monitor team members going into the "Hot Zone" or possible danger zones for medical issues as an EMT. As the team members returned with samples, SFC Williams would assist the team's chemist in a mobile analytical lab to determine if the sample was of a hazardous nature.

After retirement, Howard had the pleasure of meeting again the chaplain he served with in Vietnam. The chaplain, LTC Claude D Newby is also an author of numerous books of his tours in Vietnam. Chaplain Newby gave Howard an autographed copy of one of his books, IT TOOK HEROES. He wrote "To Howard (Doc) In memory of shared moments of terror and in tribute to your great courage, service and sacrifices. God bless and welcome home!" Claude Newby, July 22, 2004.

SFC Williams received a Purple Heart, and the Bronze Star among many other commendations.

Since retirement Howard has served with the VFW and DAV and the Vietnam Veterans Association. He has taught civilian personnel how to use personal protective equipment (PPE), before they were deployed to Iraq, Afghanistan, and other overseas assignments. Howard has also taught life saving classes through the American Red Cross.

Howard is the husband of Ozark Spring Chapter member LaVerna Williams.

The Daughters of the Ozark Spring Chapter DAR are proud to nominate Howard W. Williams as Patriot of the Month and extend their gratitude for his patriotic service, devotion, and commitment to our great nation.