

**Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution
Proudly Honors**



**Patriot of the Month
August 2016**



**Charles "Bud" Funk
United States Army**

**Sponsored by:
St. Louis-Jefferson
Chapter**



Charles Funk joined the United States Army in St. Louis, Missouri, in November 1966. He was an Assistant District Chief Military Advisor, a liaison to American forces in MAC-V (Military Advisory Command Vietnam). Anything operational was handled by MAC-V. He set up an intelligence office in Vietnam with the purpose to seek and destroy the North Vietnamese political infrastructure. He ran the office and went into villages with an interpreter to try to see who was politically active and find out troop movements. He was in Quang-Tri, Vietnam for one year.

Charles was awarded the Army Commendation Medal, Vietnam Service Badge, Expert Marksmanship Medal, and Certificate for Meritorious Service December 1968-November 1969. Charles has a photo of bars, medals, and ribbons, along with two certificates which indicates more commendations. He could not recall or translate some of the awards. Charles was discharged in December 1969 in San Francisco, California.

Charles was a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) for 30 years. He had his own CPA practice for 25 years. He was a controller for various companies for ten years. Charles has been involved in various community service activities, such as, Chamber of Commerce, treasurer for 2 local cities, Voice, long term ombudsman for four years, Eliot Unitarian Chapel, Board of Directors.

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Charles has been married for 47 years and they have one daughter, one granddaughter, and one grandson.

After Melissa Bay interviewed Charles, she wrote the following:

Although I have known Mr. Funk since I was born, we never spoke about his service in Vietnam until I interviewed him for this project. I had never seen his medals or scrapbook, filled with news articles, photos, maps and other important moments. Yet he did not linger on these things.

Always pleasant and cooperative, Mr. Funk fully answered the questions, but I saw pain in his eyes. "No war stories?" I asked. "No" he flatly stated. A lump formed in my throat and I asked how he liked the food. He smiled and said it was very good, he still eats at Vietnamese restaurants and enjoys the music played there. "Though discordant to many," he said it reminds him of the peaceful times when the Vietnamese would walk with their families.

But 'Bud' is like that. He puts the negative behind him and goes forward to the next experience life offers or he pursues. Unquestionably, Mr. Funk's year in Vietnam was challenging and traumatic. As a First Lieutenant in Quang-Tri, and an intelligence officer, his service required true sacrifice. He put his life on the line for our country and thankfully returned home, but not without painful memories.

Mr. Funk resumed civilian life successfully, professionally and personally. He applied his carefree skills as a CPA and a controller of companies to give back selflessly to his surrounding community.

St. Louis-Jefferson Daughters are proud to recognize Charles Funk as Patriot of the Month and extend their gratitude and appreciation for his patriotic service to our great nation.