

# Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution Proudly Honors



**Patriot of the Month  
September 2016**



## **Charles Kuensting** United States Army

**Sponsored by:  
Jane Randolph Jefferson  
Chapter**

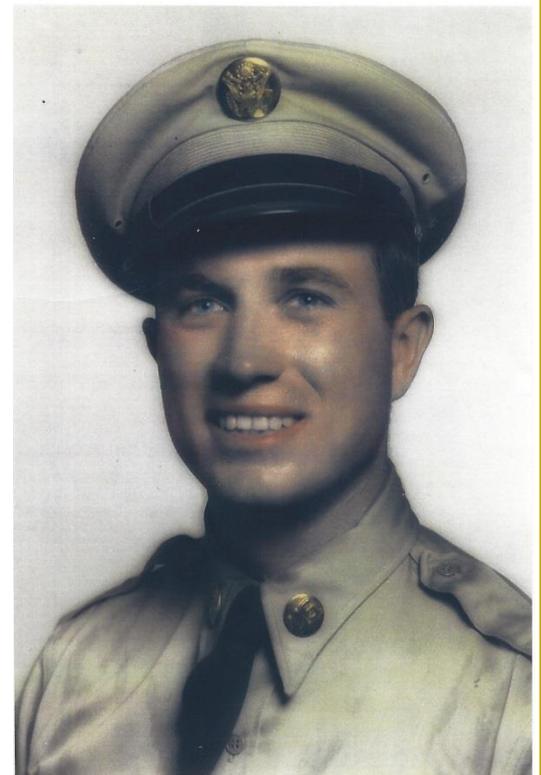
Upon graduating the eighth grade in 1942, Charles Kuensting made the decision to leave school. Living on a 500 acre farm and with all of the boys gone to service fighting during World War II, he stayed home to help his parents on the farm. Shortly after his marriage to Mary Elizabeth Brandt, he reported for in processing with the United States Army at Jefferson Barracks, St. Louis and went to Fort Chaffee, Arkansas where he completed basic combat and artillery training. After eight weeks of boot camp he was sent to Fort Lewis, Washington where he was to be shipped overseas to Korea.

Traveling in the middle of winter on a double decker troopship, he endured a very rocky trip due to rough water. Landing in Inchon, Korea the young soldier was taken to Seoul for a couple of days before joining the 69<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Battalion, 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division near Chunchon, Korea, about 50 or 60 miles north of the 38<sup>th</sup> Parallel. It was mountainous and very cold. Charles was first assigned to the guns. Because of his mechanical experience from growing up on a farm he was put on vehicle detail as the weather caused serious trouble with the vehicles. He was promoted to sergeant and put in charge of a small crew of men to keep everything running in the horrible conditions. At times it was 24 degrees below zero or possibly colder as their thermometer did not go any further to gauge the temperature. They could not light a fire as the smoke would alert the enemy.

Charles saw friends killed in action and befriended a local orphan boy. Later that boy took a grenade and killed several soldiers in their tent. Charles had a terrifying experience one day while was going through some brush by himself. He came to a clearing to see a Korean soldier with a rifle pointed at him. They both just stood there and looked at each other. Charles said at that point, he prayed that he would get to see his son. The Korean soldier stood there a while then turned around and left. Thank you God!

Charles earned the Korean Service Medal w/3 bronze campaign stars and a United Nations Medal. He was in Korea from 1951 to 1953. In 1959, he was honorably discharged at Camp Roberts, California. He travelled to his home via train and car.

Charles went to war with brown hair but it turned completely white before he arrived home. His wife didn't even recognize him at first. Charles was overjoyed to see his son who was already walking at that time.



Charles became an automotive mechanic and worked part time in the evenings to support his family. He was always early to work and on call to whoever had car trouble. He is an extremely well respected service technician.

Charles and Mary Elizabeth had seven children. He always has a hug for his grandchildren and great grandchildren and is available to help out when needed. His family is his joy.

Charles is a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, Fraternal Order of Eagles, local Lions Club, and local Catholic Church. He is always available to lend a hand in his community when it is needed.

Jane Randolph Jefferson Daughters are proud and honored to recognize Charles Kuensting as Patriot of the Month for his dedication and service to our great nation.