

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution Proudly Honors



Patriot of the Month
September 2016



Robert Wayne Sparkman

United States Air Force

Sponsored by:
Armstrong
Chapter



Robert Wayne Sparkman graduated from high school and enlisted in the Air Force in July 1959. He received eleven weeks of basic training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. After completing basic training, he was transferred to Schilling Air Force Base, Salina, Kansas, as a Waste Water Specialist. Schilling Air Force Base was the home to the 802nd Air Defense Command. Robert was first assigned to the 310th Civil Engineering Squadron at the Strategic Air Command. In 1962 he moved as a Missile Specialist to the 550th Strategic Missile Squadron which is part of the 310th Strategic Aerospace Wing and was a detachment of the 802nd Air Support Group.

Robert completed his enlistment in the 550th Strategic Missile Squadron. He was discharged at Schilling Air Force Base, Salina, Kansas as an Airman Second Class in July 1963. Robert received the Good Conduct Medal, Air Wing Group Award, Presidential Citation from President Eisenhower in 1961 and was on the Rifle Squad

While at Schilling Air Force Base, he married Karen Edwards.

Robert shared a memorable experience he and Karen had during his enlistment. They were in a car dealership in Abilene, Kansas one day as they wanted to trade cars. Robert was in his fatigue uniform. They looked up and saw President Eisenhower walking into the building. He saw Robert in his fatigue uniform. The

President approached him and said, "Airman, how are you?" and then shook hands with Robert and Karen. This occurred while President Eisenhower was President of the United States. Robert states he does not remember seeing any security men around the President even though they might have been there.

After Robert's discharge, Robert and his wife returned to Missouri. He was employed at Kilgore Oil Company for six months, police officer at his local police department for five years, and Wick Homes for 25 years, and Gary Davenport Construction Company for five years. He retired in 2000.

Robert and his wife had three sons, eight grandchildren, and nine great grandchildren.

Robert is a member of two Masonic Lodges and attends Family Life Fellowship Church.

Armstrong Daughters are proud and honored to recognize Robert Wayne Sparkman as a Patriot of the Month for his patriotism and service to our great country.