

# Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution Proudly Honors

## Patriot of the Month September 2016



Sponsored by:  
Caroline Close Stuart  
Chapter



## Virgil “Dutch” Wiesner United States Marine Corps

When World War II started in 1941, Virgil was attending Maplewood High School. He was active on the wrestling team, photography club and also served as president of the rifle club. During this time “Dutch” Wiesner made a name for himself on the rifle range in both state and national competitions.

After enlisting in the Marines at age 17, Virgil attended boot camp in San Diego where he qualified as an Expert Rifleman. He was trained in radio and radar communications at Wright Jr. College in Chicago and Camp Lejeune.

He was then sent to the Central Pacific Islands with the 22<sup>nd</sup> Provisional Brigade 2<sup>nd</sup> Marine Division and served on Saipan and Tinian under Brigadier General Merritt Edson. He also served with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Amphibious Corps on Okinawa.

While acting as a scout-observer doing perimeter surveillance, Virgil was provided with a female Doberman-pincher, named Mouser, as a partner. He credits Mouser with saving his life on numerous occasions because of the dog's ability to detect booby trap trip wires and concealed enemies.

Shortly after Japan surrendered, Virgil transferred to a Military Police unit and was responsible for supervising Prisoners of War as they rehabilitated damaged villages. Virgil was awarded the Marksmanship Badge and World War II Action Ribbon.

After being honorably discharged in July of 1946 as a Corporal, Virgil reenlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve and also served three years with the Missouri National Guard.

After returning from the war, Virgil married Rosemary Woods and together they raised seven children. In the first years of their marriage Virgil and Rosemary ran a photography studio where Virgil used his photography skills for taking photos for sports magazines, the movie studios, weddings, and families.

Under the GI Bill, Virgil was able to attend Washington University and earned a degree in Biology. He worked with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources as an environmental quality specialist and retired from there. Virgil oftentimes shares stories about his experiences in World War II.

Caroline Close Stuart Daughters are proud to honor and recognize Virgil Wiesner as Patriot of the Month for his patriotism and service to our great nation.