

# Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution Proudly Honors



## Patriot of the Month October 2016



## Gary L. Franklin United States Army

Sponsored by:  
Charity Stille Langstaff  
Chapter

Gary L. Franklin enlisted in the United States Army in November 1966. Gary entered the army at Jefferson Barracks in St. Louis, Missouri. From there he was sent to Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri for basic training. After basic training, he was sent to Advanced Individual Training as a medic and radiographic procedures specialist at Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas. After completing four weeks of medic training at Fort Sam Houston, the Army decided to accept Gary's civilian registered radiologic technologist training and he was shipped to Vietnam in March 1967.



In Vietnam, Gary was assigned to the 44th Medical Battalion's 18th Surgical Hospital. This was the first mobile, inflatable hospital that moved around Vietnam in support of the United States military campaigns. As a Specialist 5, E-5 medic, Gary was the x-ray tech for the mobile hospital. Over the course of the year Gary was stationed in Vietnam, the hospital moved from the Mekong Delta in the south to within 14 miles of the demilitarized zone (DMZ) in the north. Locations where they were located the longest are Pleiku, Lai Khe, and Quang-Tri. Gary was picking up medical supplies in Saigon during the 1968 Tet Offensive.

Gary flew into Pleiku, Vietnam in a C130 cargo plane. He vividly remembers riding on the ramp of the cargo plane looking out through the crack where the tail of the plane opened. He also remembers taking care of lots and lots of GIs. The GIs wounded with white phosphorus stand out the most. Another vivid memory is of packing the hospital up to move and discovering a cobra under a section of flooring. When the cobra raised its head, Gary dropped the pallet and left it there. He doesn't remember what they did when they set the hospital up in the new location with one less floor section, as far as he was concerned the cobra could keep that pallet.

While in Vietnam, Gary received the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Vietnam Service Medal w/4 Campaign Stars, two Overseas Service Bars, a Sharp Shooters Badge, and Army Commendation Medal. He was discharged in September 1969 from the 3rd Army Hospital Detachment at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, and received the Good Conduct Medal.

After his military discharge, Gary returned to his home state where he worked as a registered radiologic technologist. He attended Washington University and became a registered nuclear medicine technologist as well. In addition to working as a technologist, he worked as a radiology manager for hospitals in Northeast and Northwest Missouri. The last 20 years of Gary's career were spent as a Health Facility Consultant for the Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services inspecting medical facilities across the state.

Gary is a member and Past Commodore of the local boat club in his hometown. He is a life member of Veterans of Foreign War and a member of the American Legion. He is a former member of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, serving on the Mississippi River. Gary went on a Central Missouri Honor Flight to Washington, D.C., and now volunteers for Central Missouri Honor Flight.

Gary is married to Lori Harris Franklin. They have one daughter and son-in-law.

Charity Stille Langstaff Daughters proudly honor and recognize Gary L. Franklin for Patriot of the Month and extend appreciation for his patriotic service and commitment to our great nation.