

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution Proudly Honors

Patriot of the Month

October 2016



Sponsored by:
Reverend John Clark
Chapter

William "Bill" Rupp United States Marine Corps

Bill Rupp spent his World War II years in the United States Marine Corps. He enlisted the day after he graduated from high school in June 1942. Bill and his twin brother, Lloyd, expected to serve in the war together, but while they were in basic training the War Department decided that siblings should not serve together. War time tragedies had affected some families as brothers were sometimes injured or killed together. Both Bill and Lloyd served in the Pacific Theatre for more than two years but never saw each other.

Bill was an artillery 90MM fuse setter, anti-aircraft gunner, radar operator, and engineer for O Battery, 6th Marine AAA Defense Battalion, Fleet Marine Force Pacific. Though he faced death often, from Japanese, typhoons and diseases, he returned home unscathed in later 1945 after the war ended. He was discharged in 1945 at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. Bill received numerous ribbons, including the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign and American Campaign ribbons.

Bill married June and they raised five kids. Bill and Lloyd were in the lawn and garden business for many years. After retirement Bill became even more active in veteran affairs. He has been on local, state, and national Commissions, Councils, and Committees.

Bill designed and arranged the building of the Veterans Memorial in his local area in 1997/1998. Later he designed and arranged the Korea/Vietnam Veteran Memorial. At the age of 91 years young, he is currently designing a memorial to honor disabled veterans.

Bill is still actively arranging community-wide events in his local area for Memorial Day, 4th of July, and Veteran's Day in order to honor all veterans. He has also designed and implemented the Veteran's Corner, a room at the entrance to his current independent living facility. From the helicopters landing in the back lawn for "his" events to the memorabilia on display, he is still making a big difference in veteran's lives despite his bout with cancer, heart attack and craniotomy!

In 2003, the local newspaper named Bill as one of the individuals who made a difference in several of his local counties. In 2004, he was honored by House Resolution No. 13 in Missouri. In 2006, Bill was honored as the National Veteran of the Year by the Association of Military Recruiters and Counselors which was based in the Pentagon and had the United States Flag flown over the Pentagon in his honor. Bill is one of 19 veterans honored in a book entitled, "Distinguished Veterans Who Made a Difference by Lyle Hogue. These are just a few of Bill's 40+ awards and commendations. He has truly made a difference in the lives of our local veterans.

Reverend John Clark Daughters are proud to honor and recognize William "Bill" Rupp for patriot of the month for his patriotism and service to our great nation.