

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution
Proudly Honors

Patriot of the Month
December 2016



Ralph Barrale
United States Army

Sponsored by:
St. Charles
Chapter

Ralph Barrale was a 19 year old city kid when he enlisted in the United States Army in May 1943. He never went to high school. Ralph said "It just wasn't for me. I walked in the front door and out the back door." Instead, his education was acquired on the battlefields of Europe. One of his first lessons learned, was behind the steering wheel of an Army jeep. When a call went out for volunteers to drive for the motor pool, Ralph quickly volunteered despite the fact he had never driven a vehicle in his life. "I figured it would be better to drive instead of marching throughout the War," he said. Like many young men his age, he was forced to mature by circumstances beyond his control. He survived during one of the coldest European winters on record during the Battle of the Bulge; witnessing

firsthand the abhorrent evil unleashed on the innocent victims of Dachau; being left to his own devices to find his way back home when the war ended, without any guidance, fanfare or words of appreciation. His war experience ended with a call to his fiancé to come pick him up.

Ralph served in the European Theatre during World War II. He was with the 821st Military Police Company. His job consisted of picking up and transporting German prisoners, as well as packing up their infantry. His company landed at Utah Beach. Later his unit joined Patton's 3rd Army as combat military police, participating in the Battle of the Bulge and the Battle for the Bridge at Remagen. He was then assigned to the 42nd Division to liberate Dachau and then assigned to patrol the streets of Nuremburg during the trials.

Ralph's medals include: Battle of the Bulge, European Theatre of Operations w/4 battle stars, Army of Operation, Good Conduct, World War II, French Liberation, American Campaign, Utah and Omaha Beach Participant, and D-Day.

Reflecting back, Ralph was very moved by the French people's reaction to the death of President Roosevelt. They were a thankful country that was broken up and sympathetic that this great leader did not live to see the successful outcome of the war. He was discharged in January 1946 at Jefferson Barracks.

After the war, Ralph worked for Guth Electric Company. Later he went to work for the Continental Can Company, where he was a forklift driver and later became a foreman. He is active in his community as a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, and several local veteran commissions. He was instrumental in working with county officials in renaming a section of a local highway outer road "Veterans Memorial Parkway" and through his influence and guidance he established a local Veteran's Memorial Park. Currently, he is working with officials of a neighboring city to establish a World War II museum. He is a member of the Knights of Columbus and of their color guard.

Ralph and his wife, Rose, have been married for 70 years. They have two sons and one daughter.

St. Charles Daughters are proud and honored to recognize Ralph Barrale as Patriot of the Month for his patriotism and service to our great nation.