

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution Proudly Honors

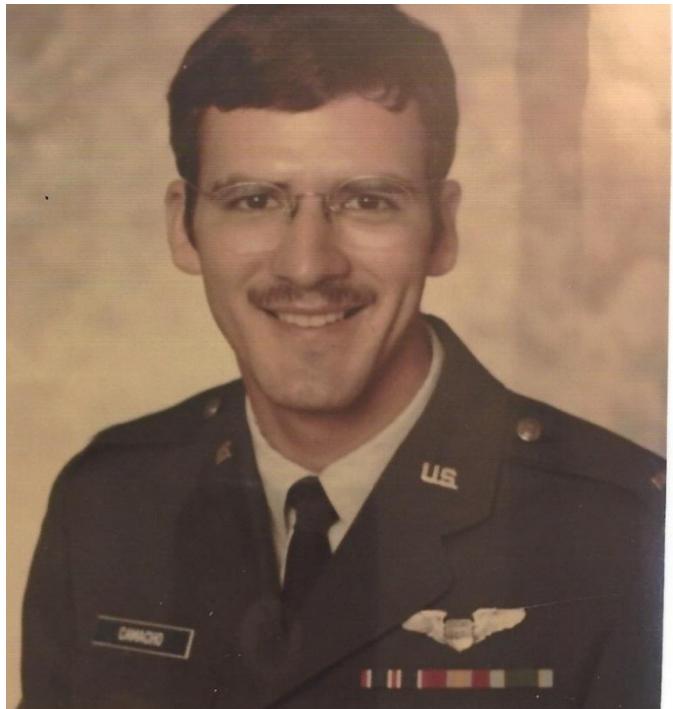


Patriot of the Month January 2017



Jerry Paul Camacho United States Air Force

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John Guild
Chapter



With Vietnam in full force, the military gave college students four years to complete their degrees; after four years, the students were drafted even if they hadn't completed their degree. Jerry Paul Camacho was drafted three months after he graduated from college and he entered the United States Air Force in September 1970. He began his military career by entering the Officer Training School at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. It was his desire to be a pilot, but he was not accepted due to his vision. Instead, he went to Navigator Training School.

Jerry trained to become a B-52 Navigator. Jerry was assigned to Mather Air Force Base, California, Castle Air Force Base, California, Ellsworth Air Force Base, and Rapid City, South Dakota. Duty overseas included a temporary duty assignment to Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, and then a transfer to Ramstein Air Base, Germany. Returning to stateside, he was assigned to Grand Forks Air Force Base, Grand Forks, North Dakota, and Offutt Air Force Base, Bellevue, Nebraska.

Assignments included Navigator B-52 and Instructor/Evaluator Radar Navigator and Navigator. He prepared Short Range missile sorties for the unit War Plans. He developed plans for the beddown of United States fighters, bombers and transport aircraft in Europe to aid the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in the event of aggression by the Warsaw Pact. Jerry served on the program management team for developing in the operation mission planning systems for the B-1b and B2a. The duties he performed as a B-52 navigator was very risky while station in Guam. He flew many times behind enemy lines while serving in Vietnam where he and his crew dropped bombs.

Jerry's most meaningful experience was to be on the crew selected to fly and launch the Air Launched Cruise Missile (ALCM) at the Utah Test range and fly a captive carry mission with the ALCM into the polar region and evaluate its ability to navigate to the target after flying for several hours.

Jerry's medals and awards include: Air Medal, Meritorious Service Medal w/3 oak leaf clusters, Air Force Commendation Medal w/1 oak leaf cluster, Outstanding Unit Award, National Defense Service, Overseas Short Tour w/1 oak leaf cluster, Air Force Expeditionary Service, Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation, and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal. He was discharged in September, 1990 with the rank of Major, United States Air Force, after completing 20 years of active service.

After his discharge, Jerry returned to school and received a second degree in Computer Science. For the past 28 years he has been a band member and a member of the Board of Directors of his local community band. He worked with Cub Scouts as a Cub Committee Chairman and as Merit Badge counselor the Boy Scouts. Jerry's family are members of the Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and he teaches Sunday school to 16-18 year olds. Jerry and his wife assist others who are doing genealogical research on a weekly basis.

Jerry and his wife have two daughters, two grandchildren, and two step grandchildren.

John Guild Daughters are proud and honored to recognize Jerry Paul Camacho as Patriot of the Month for his patriotism and service to our great nation.