

**Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution  
Proudly Honors**



**Patriot of the Month**

**November 2017**



**Dawn Michelle West  
Fansler**

**United States Navy**

**Sponsored by:  
Olde Town Fenton  
Chapter**



During Dawn's senior year of high school she entered the United States Navy through the delayed entry program in January, 1988, at St. Louis, Missouri. She went to Orlando, Florida for her basic training. At Great Lakes, Illinois, she attended Corpsman "A" School. She was then assigned to the Naval and Marine Corps Reserve Center in St. Louis, Missouri. During the Honduras Drug Operations, she accompanied troops into the backcountry to assist when a medic was needed. She served two assignments at the United States Naval Academy during her brother's Midshipman service. While assigned at the Balboa Naval Hospital, San Diego, California, she worked as a Labor and Delivery Nurse.

During Dawn's deployment during Desert Storm, she served at Bahrain Hospital 6, and in Arabia she was assigned to the Kuwait Helicopter Medical Evacuation Unit. Her duties were as a battlefield ambulance driver and triage. She also served as a Hospitalman in the battlefield intensive care unit.

Prior to deployment to Desert Storm, a directive was given that no one could have in their possession an American Flag or a bible. Dawn was a junior member of Webster Groves Chapter NSDAR at the time of her deployment. They presented her with an American Flag flown over the State and National Capitals. She decided to disobey that order. She obtained a bible that would fit in the leg pocket of her uniform pants and she also took her flag. She used the flag as a privacy screen inside of her tent. She held bible studies in her tent during evening breaks. She led many soldiers to the Lord Jesus Christ. Her Commanding Officer of her Hospital Unit called her out, saying he had learned of her flag. He ordered her to forfeit her flag, saying, "If you are bold enough to bring that flag, then I am bold enough to fly it over Command Headquarters." This was the only American flag flying in Bahrain during the battles. The flag was returned to Dawn as she was breaking camp to head back home to the United States.

Dawn's medals include: Kuwait Liberation, Southeast Asia; Sea Service; Good Conduct; Expert Rifle and Marksman.

She was discharged in St. Louis, Missouri in January 1996.

Dawn is a photographer and an in-home health care provider. Both Dawn and her husband are leaders of a Boy Scout troop. Her two oldest sons are Eagle Scouts. Her third son is working on his Eagle project. She is a National Leadership Trainer and on the Eagle Board of Review with the Boy Scouts of America.

Dawn serves on the Parent Teacher Organization boards at three schools in her community. She is a member of the American Legion and the National Rifle Association. Dawn's grandmother, Kathryn Hills, and her mother, Nancy Hills, founded and chartered the Poplar Bluff Chapter NSDAR. Dawn is also a member of the Poplar Bluff Chapter NSDAR. Dawn and her mother are both associate members of Olde Town Fenton Chapter NSDAR.

Dawn grew up the child of a career Navy Yeoman Command Master Chief and her brother graduated from the Naval Academy. Dawn is an outstanding citizen and proactively stands for the American way of life and Constitution of the United States. She contributes to the welfare of the children of the community and has mentored nine boys to become Eagle Scouts. "Be Prepared" is her creed of life. Her household is totally prepared for any survival situation and could be a leader in assisting in any type of crisis.

Olde Town Fenton Daughters are very proud and honored to recognize Dawn Michelle West Fansler as Patriot of the Month for her patriotism, service and dedication to her local community and to our great nation.