

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

Patriot of the Month



January 2018



Photo on the Cover of Life Magazine

**Lawrence
Charles
Tornetto**
United States Army



Sponsored by:
Saint Louis-Jefferson
Chapter

Lawrence entered the United States Army in August, 1946 and served until December, 1947, when he was discharged. During World War II, he was shipped overseas to Camp Drake in Japan where he filled the role of Supply Sergeant. After his discharge, he returned home.

In September, 1950, Lawrence was called back up. He was sent to Fort Lewis, Washington, and from there he was shipped to the Pusan Perimeter, South Korea before being sent into battle. He was wounded by a bullet to the left thigh in March, 1951, in Chungnam, South Korea. The battle that day resulted in two infantrymen being killed and as well as a 60% casualty loss.

Lawrence's medals include Purple Heart, Good Conduct Medal, World War II Victory Medal, and Japanese Occupation Medal.

While Lawrence's most memorable experience was being shot, there was a day he and a fellow soldier were digging their fox hole. While in the process, a Life Magazine reporter snapped their photograph and it was used on the cover of the magazine back home. His injury was sustained early on (only about six months after being called back up) and he recalls being advised by Medics that he had a "million dollar wound" meaning the severity of the injury was such that it would result in his going home. From the mash tents in Korea he was transferred to a hospital in Japan where he

underwent surgery. Eventually he was transferred to an Army hospital in Indiana where he recuperated (in a cast from under his arms to his toes) for nearly a year.

After Lawrence was discharged, he and his brother started a BBQ stand at a family restaurant on The Hill that was eventually sold to an uncle. Always being mechanically inclined he went on to become an electrician, working for a couple different corporations until he was eventually hired by a large metropolitan police department to maintain, along with one other electrician, all electrical systems for their 23 buildings. Due to his extensive knowledge of heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems, electrical and carpentry crafts, he was promoted to the position of Superintendent of the Building Division and was responsible for all aspects of building maintenance for the Police Department, including over 60 employees in that division while managing a multi-million dollar budget.

Lawrence has always been a very hands on, active member in his community on The Hill and at his church. At age 89, he still attends Mass every morning. He is a lifelong resident of The Hill and lived there with Rita, his wife of 52 years, where they raised their three children. He has seven grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

Saint Louis-Jefferson Daughters are proud and honored to recognize Lawrence Charles Toretto as Patriot of the Month for his dedication, patriotism and service to our great nation.