



## **Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution**



### **Patriot of the Month, March 2008 Robert Eugene Cook**

In 1944 at the age of 17, Robert Cook left his job with Quaker Oats in St. Joseph, Missouri, to enlist in the US Marine Corps. He was sent to boot camp at San Diego, California. He was then assigned to George Battery, 12<sup>th</sup> Marines, with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Division and stationed on the island of Guam. Robert's unit participated in the invasions of Guam and Iwo Jima. At the end of the war, Robert was involved in repatriation of the Japanese from China.

Robert returned home in 1946 and married Evelyn one week after his return. He returned to employment with Quaker Oats.

In 1949, Robert enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve. He was activated in August 1950 and sent to Korea to serve with the 5<sup>th</sup> Marines in the 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division. After participating in many battles, Robert was wounded at the Battle of Chosin Reservoir, for which he received the Purple Heart. He returned home in 1951 with the rank of Staff Sergeant.

Robert again returned to employment with Quaker Oats, where he remained until retiring in 1988 with 45 ½ years of service.

Robert continued his affiliation with the Marine Corps. He is a member of the Northwest Detachment of the Marine Corps League, serving as Commandant from 1990-1992. In 2003, he received the Parade Saber Award from the Northwest Detachment of the Marine Corps League for outstanding volunteer work. He coordinated the Toys for Tots program with the Marine Corps League for five years.

Robert is also a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1668 and American Legion Post 359. He participates in funeral details with the Marine Corps League and the VFW. For many years, on a weekly basis, Robert drove veterans to the VA Hospital in Leavenworth, Kansas, from St. Joseph.

Robert and Evelyn are the proud parents of two daughters, three grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. He and Evelyn celebrated 61 years of marriage in 2007.

Robert Cook was proudly nominated for Patriot of the Month by his wife, Evelyn, who is a member of the St. Joseph Chapter NSDAR.