



*Missouri State Society Daughters of the  
American Revolution*

Patriot of the Month; December 2008

**Jake E. Grgurich**

Jake E. Grgurich is a true patriot who loves his county and fought in World War II and the Korean Conflict. His military service was delayed because of a broken leg

but he finally entered the US Army in April of 1942. As a member of the 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, 347 Replacement Battalion, Jakie served in North Africa, Sicily, England, Normandy, France, Northern France, Belgium, and Germany. His major conflicts were on the beaches of Normandy during the D-Day invasion and the Battle of the Bulge. He received the following honors and citations;

- Six bronze Battle Stars
- Campaign Ribbons
- Good Conduct Medal
- Two Purple Hearts
- A Special Bronze Star for heroic efforts in Germany while transporting prisoners back to the stockade and rescuing a wounded comrade

Jakie and his late wife, Valeria, whom he met in Belgium during the war, have seven children, fifteen grandchildren and several great-grandchildren. He still lives on his farm. He has farmed and ran a trucking business most of his life.

He is a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and served as Governor for two years. He is still very active, serving at military funerals and services, marching in parades, and participating in all patriotic and Veterans celebrations. In December 2006, a ceremony was held at the Novinger Cemetery to dedicate the monument that Jakie had purchased to honor all the Veterans buried there.

Jakie is a member of the St. Rose Catholic Church in Novinger. He has always served his family, his community, and his country well.

The Ann Hayes Chapter proudly nominates Jake E. Grgruich as Patriot of the Month