



*Missouri State Society Daughters of the
American Revolution*

Patriot of the Month; January 2009

Gary Bray Piper

Shortly after graduating from Bera High School in Toledo, Ohio, Gary Piper joined the Air Force. He became a jet mechanic and progressed to Master Sergeant and jet mechanic teacher. Gary served at: Lackland AFB, Texas; Amarillo AFB, Texas; Selfridge AFB, Michigan; Sheppard AFB, Texas; Laredo AFB, Texas; Reese AFB, Texas, as well in Vietnam and Thailand.

Gary served in the Air Force for twenty years. After retiring from the Air Force, he worked for Boeing in Wichita, Kansas, for four years before moving to Bronaugh, Missouri, where he began an eleven year career as a JROTC instructor in Nevada, Missouri, influencing many students.

Gary received the following honors and citations;

- AF Commendation medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster
- AF Outstanding Unit Award
- AF Organizational Excellence Award
- AF Good Conduct medal with five Oak Clusters
- National Defense Service medal
- Vietnam Service Medal with three Bronze Service Bars
- Humanitarian Service medal
- AF Longevity Service Award with four Oak Leaf Clusters
- NCO Professional Military Education Graduate ribbon
- Small Arms Expert Marksmanship ribbon
- Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm
- Republic of Vietnam Campaign medal
- Meritorious Service medal

Gary is married to Reba Piper (the second Patriot of the Month). They have three children and five grandchildren. He now does substitute teaching in the Nevada and Lamar School Districts. They are members of the Catholic Church.