

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution
Proudly “Spotlights” our October 2011
Patriot of the Month



Bobby Dickens

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Rachel Donelson Chapter
Springfield, Missouri

Bobby Dickens was born in Springfield, Missouri and graduated from Springfield Senior High School in 1954. Upon graduation at age eighteen, he joined the U.S. Navy Air Reserve and attended Graceland College on a football scholarship. Moving to Seattle, Washington, he joined the U.S. Coast Guard where he played softball and football. During a tour in Hawaii, Bob won the All Navy Softball Championship holding the batting and home run titles.

When he returned home, Bob joined the Army National Guard. He went on active duty and went to flight school. He did a tour in Vietnam flying gun ships.

Bob was transferred to a base in Texas as a flight instructor. After his discharge, he was a pilot for the Forest Service and the Los Angeles County Fire Department. Bob went back full time with the Army National Guard as the chief test pilot for the Missouri Aviation Classification Repair Activity, Springfield, Missouri. He was transferred to the Pentagon with the National Guard Bureau as an aviation analyst. He went back on active duty at Fort Rucker Army Aviation Center as a National Guard Liaison Officer.

As a civilian again, Bob was appointed to the National Transportation Safety Board as a Federal Investigator then moved to the Federal Aviation Administration as the Aviation Safety Program Manager where he retired. He taught at the Federal Aviation Administration Academy in Oklahoma City and also was the Regional Representative for the Aircraft Owners Pilot Association, then officially retired in 2007.

During his career, Bob has accumulated over 14,000 hours of flight time and ratings in helicopters and fixed wing airplanes. He holds his Airline Transport Pilot, Flight Instructor, Helicopter and Airplane single, multi, land, and instrument ratings. His favorite aircraft that he flew were the UH1 gunship *Skycrane*, and C12.

Bob's awards, medals, and citations include:

- Distinguished Flying Cross**
- Bronze Star**
- 14 Air Medals**
- Meritorious Service Medal**
- Vietnamese Cross**
- Presidential Unit Citation (173rd Airborne Brigade)**

Bob and his wife Patricia are the parents of six children and they have eleven grandchildren and one great-grandchild. He is a member of South Haven Baptist Church. Patricia Dickens is a member of the Rachel Donelson Chapter DAR.