

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



**John Robert West**

Sponsored by:

**Warrensburg  
Chapter**

**Warrensburg,  
Missouri**



John West was born in Springfield, Missouri, December 13, 1946. He moved to the Kansas City area in 1962 and graduated from Ruskin Heights High School in 1966. He married and began driving for U-Haul after graduation.

He was drafted in November 1967. He began his service at Fort Bliss, Texas as a mechanic. He was sent to Vietnam in November 1968 to Cameron Bay, assigned to 518th Company. He worked in personnel, typing orders for men coming into and departing the area. He states, "It was a war zone, I had a typewriter in front of me and my rifle beside me." He was discharged in August 1969.

John's awards, medals, and citations include:

- Vietnam Service Medal
- Republic of Vietnam Service Medal
- Overseas Service Bar
- Army Commendation Medal
- Certificate of Appreciation signed by General Westmoreland

**John was suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder when he returned from Vietnam. He was divorced and lived a hermit's life in an Ozarks farmhouse for about six years. Now, after years of therapy, including Alcoholics Anonymous, he requires medication. He worked for a few years with a chaplain. "That man," his wife says, "turned John's life around." John is unable to pursue a career because of his Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.**

**John married Linda McAllister and they have four children and one granddaughter. He attends Vietnam Veterans of America meetings. John plays the guitar and in his workshop he does woodcarvings and makes jewelry from silver and turquoise.**