

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution
Proudly "Spotlights" our June 2012
Patriot of the Month



Melvin Meyr

Sponsored by:

**Margaret Miller
Chapter
Huntsville,
Missouri**



In the fall of 1944, Melvin Meyr was a senior in high school when he received his draft notice. By January 4, 1945, he was being inducted into the Army at Jefferson Barracks, St. Louis, Missouri. From there he was sent to Fort Sill, Oklahoma for his basic training. He was then assigned to the Central Signal Corps School in Crowder, Missouri for training as a radio operator. Upon completion of his training, he was transferred to Fort Ord, California and attached to the 41st Amp Tank Battalion. He was assigned to the 286th Joint Assault Signal Company, which was involved in ship to shore communications. At that time, the company was training at Coronado Naval Base in preparation for the invasion of Japan. Part of the training included handling the landing crafts. After Japan surrendered, Melvin was honorably discharged from the Army on August 22, 1946.

Melvin was given a physical education credit for his Army training by the Superintendent of Jackson High School. This gave him sufficient credits to receive his high school diploma thus enabling him to enroll in college. After receiving his Bachelor of Science degree in education from Southeast Missouri State College, Cape Girardeau, Missouri, Melvin accepted a position teaching history at

Salisbury High School.

In April 1956, Melvin enlisted in the Army National Guard Company C of 175th Military Police based in Moberly, Missouri. At that time, the unit was meeting in the basement of the Moberly Municipal Auditorium until the National Guard Armory was built. Later the guard unit was reorganized and it became the 1175th. During Melvin's service in the National Guard, the 1175th was called out many times. There was at least three times that the unit helped when the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers flooded. The company provided additional security for the National Republican Convention held in Kansas City, Missouri. The 1175th was sent again to aid Kansas City at the time the firemen were on strike. For their service during the strike, Governor Teasdale sent a thank you note to the guardsmen for their assistance. When riots broke out related to the celebration of the Martin Luther King holiday, the guard unit assisted in helping to control the situation.

For one year instead of their usual summer training, the 1175th was sent to Indian Gap, Pennsylvania to assist in the processing of Cuban prisoners that were released from prison by Castro and sent to the United States.

After serving in the military for twenty nine years, which included Melvin's years of active service, Army Reserve, and the National Guard, Melvin decided not to enlist again. On April 26, 1981, Sergeant First Class Meyr, of the 1175th Military Police Company was honorably discharged from the Army National Guard.

Melvin's awards, ribbons, and medals include:

- Army Commendation Medal**
- Good Conduct Medal**
- American Campaign Medal**
- World War II Victory Medal**
- Humanitarian Service Medal**
- Armed Forces Reserve Medal/w 1 hour glass device**
- Armed Forces Reserve Component Achievement Medal/w 2 oak leaf clusters**
- Missouri National Guard Conspicuous Service Medal**
- Long Service Medal**
- State Emergency Service Ribbon/w 4 bronze stars**

In 1968. Melvin accepted a position to teach history. which at that

time was the Moberly Junior College. In 1991, Melvin retired from Moberly Area College after teaching for forty years.

Melvin married Elaine Wyle in 1959. They have two children.

Both Melvin's wife, Elaine, and his daughter Karen Harness, are members of the Margaret Miller DAR Chapter.