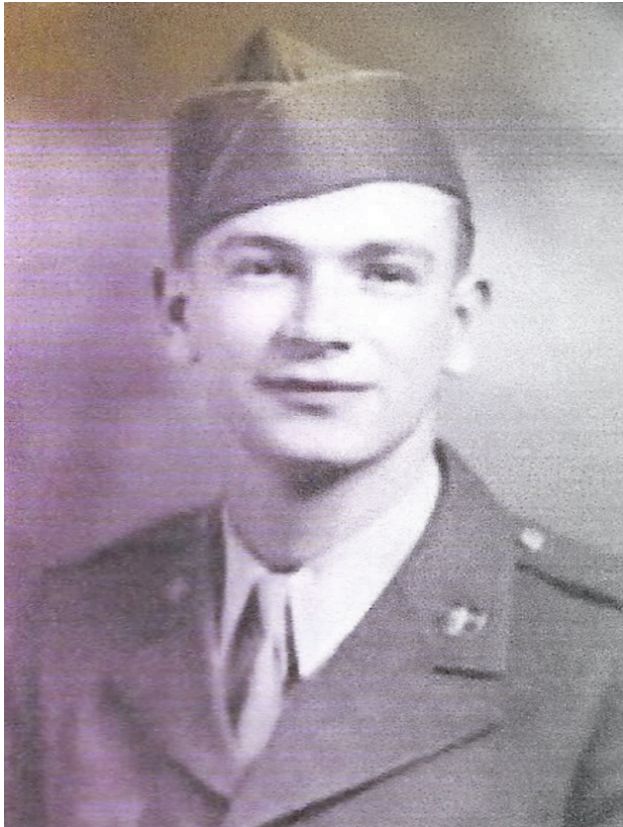




Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution
Patriot of the Month
March 2013



Curtis E. Kritz

Sponsored by:

Armstrong Chapter DAR

Curtis E. Kritz graduated from Louisiana High School, Louisiana, Missouri, in 1940 and enlisted in the Army Air Force on January 13, 1943. He received his basic training at Miami Beach, Florida, and was stationed at Scott Air Force Base, IL, and Richmond Air Force Base, VA. He saw action in the China-Burma-India Theater (CBI) and was a radio operator on a C-47 cargo plane.

Curtis shared a story about one particularly heavy cargo they were transporting to Kunming, China. There were some very large tree stumps about

five-foot tall at the end of the runway which the plane had to clear when taking off. This particular flight being so heavy gave the crew a lot of concern, and just as they got close to the stumps the engine started sputtering. They made a circle and landed for the mechanics to check out the plane and after a few minutes the problem was corrected the crew and cargo took off again, clearing the stumps.

The Japanese would give a great deal of trouble as they would somehow get the call numbers and then would call the towers for landing instructions, and after receiving clearance they would come flying in low and bomb the runways.

Occasionally there were a few circumstances when the pilot would allow Curtis to fly the plane, but never any take-offs or landings. One time he was allowed to fly from Chabwa, India, over the Himalayan Mountains, known as the hump, into Kunming, China. Curtis did, however, receive his pilot's license for single and twin engine aircraft after being discharged from the Army.

Curtis received the WWII Victory Medal and the Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal.

PFC Curtis Kritz was discharged after one year and one month overseas and returned home. His wife Vickie and 15-month old daughter, Carolyn met him in St. Louis. They relocated to Pittsfield, IL, and he went to work for his uncle who ran a propane and appliance store. Curtis and his dad opened an appliance store in Louisiana, Missouri, and later Curtis moved again to Centralia, and opened his own lumber yard. He finally retired in 1976.

Curtis and Vickie have two daughters, Carolyn and Judy. They have four grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. After Vickie passed in 1969, Curtis married Betty Lashley and has three step-children. They are members of Trinity Methodist Church, and Curtis is actively involved with the Moberly VFW, and enjoys woodworking.

The members of the Armstrong Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution wish to extend our gratitude and thanks to Curtis E. Kritz for his service to our great country.