



**Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution  
Patriot of the Month  
September 2013**



**Theodore W. Hepner**

Sponsored by

**Missouris Shoal Chapter**

Theodore "Ted" Hepner graduated from Easter High School in Detroit, Michigan, in 1953 during the Korean War. He applied for and received a Congressional Appointment to West Point United States Military Academy in 1954. Ted was commissioned as 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. in the Artillery upon graduation in 1958. Upon graduation Ted married Mae Bailey, whom he had been dating prior to his appointment to West Point.

Ted was assigned to Camp Gary, Texas, where he completed the Army Aviation Course and received his pilots wings. This was followed with advance tactical flight training and aviation instrument flight school. His first duty assignment was with the

9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division at Ft. Carson, Colorado. Then he was assigned to an artillery unit in Korea for sixteen months.

In 1962 Ted left active duty to attend the United EUB Seminary in Dayton, Ohio, but continued to serve in the Army Reserves. He was ordained in 1965 and served Trinity EUB Church in Detroit, MI and transferred from the Artillery Branch to the Chaplaincy Branch in the Army Reserve. Ted returned to active duty in 1968 and served in Viet Nam with the 5<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group.

Ted's military career included service in Italy, two tours in Germany, and numerous Army Posts in the United States. One of the state side duties included three years as the Senior Army Chaplain at Arlington Cemetery. Ted tells of some wonderful and sometimes tragic circumstances in his ministry and service. One such occurred at Arlington Cemetery. While conducting a funeral service he heard a commotion and the sound of horses hooves racing through the cemetery. It was a rainy day and a full honor funeral was in progress. Just as a casket was removed from the caisson a bolt of lightning flashed followed by a loud clap of thunder. The soldiers lost control of the horses and they bolted away and began running loose through the cemetery. They went through the exit from the cemetery and trotted along with the traffic into the City of Rosslyn just outside the gate at Ft. Myer. It took several hours to round up the horses and return them to the barns.

Ted's wife and family were able to be with him on many of his assignments. Their son, Douglas, was born at Ft. Carson, CO. Son David, was born in Dayton, OH and daughter Diana was born in Detroit, MI. They made some 30 moves during their married life. They also have 9 grandchildren.

Ted retired from the United States Army as a Colonel at Ft. Leavenworth, KS in 1994. He received several military awards and medals which include the Bronze Star, the Air Medal, and the Legion of Merit.

Upon retirement they moved to Nashville, TN where Ted served as the Director of Endorsement and Pastoral Care in the Division of Chaplains and related ministries in the United Methodist Board of Higher Education for 8 years. He retired from the Detroit Conference of the United Methodist in 2002. Ted is currently serving as co-pastor at Lathrop United Methodist Church.

The members of the Missouri Shoal Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution are proud to nominate Theodore W. Hepner as Patriot of the Month and wish to extend gratitude and thanks for his service to our country.