

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution



Patriot of the Month

November 2014



George B. Spence

Sponsored by:

Ozark Spring Chapter



The military career of George Bryan Spence began like few others. After entering the Army at Jefferson Barracks, St. Louis, Missouri in 1943, he was sent to Camp Hale, Colorado, for training with the ski troops. Shortly afterwards, he found himself in Italy during the height of the war. He was a member of the 10th Mountain Division, 86th Regiment. George participated in the Alpine, Po, and Bologna Campaigns, during which he just happened to camp within sight of the Leaning Tower of Pisa.

Upon returning to the United States, his ship pulled into the harbor at Norfolk, Virginia, only to learn the United States had just bombed Japan. Word on board ship had been that the next assignment would be a land invasion of Japan. Instead, he was discharged from the Army in 1946 at Jefferson Barracks in St. Louis, Missouri.

His awards and citations include: three Campaign Stars and one Bronze Star.

Jobs were hard to obtain when George returned to civilian life. He moved to Washington state, helping with the apple festival and working as a hotel bell hop in the off season. George returned to Missouri to attend auto body schools in St. Louis and Mount Grove, Missouri. He then took a job at the Ford garage in West Plains where he worked for the next nineteen years. Lastly, he worked for Save Stop (now McKesson) stocking non-grocery items in the grocery stores in the area.

George has two daughters, one grandson, and thirty step grandchildren and step great grandchildren.

Retirement allowed George to pursue his love of playing bluegrass music with the Sunnyside Up band at the senior citizen center, nursing home, and retirement home. He is very proud of the six fiddles he has made and also repairs instruments. He has a wonderful sense of humor. He said, "The difference between a fiddle and a violin is - one is carried in a tow sack; the other is carried in a case."

The members of the Ozark Spring Chapter DAR are proud to nominate George Bryan Spence as Patriot of the Month and extend gratitude for his service and commitment to our nation.