

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution



Patriot of the Month

March 2015



Kelly Goede Dunn

Sponsored by:

O'Fallon Chapter



Kelly Goede Dunn is a real Renaissance woman. She is multi-faceted and handles each aspect of her life well. She has always been this way. Her parents tell tales of Kelly, as a young girl, 'borrowing' numerous small appliances from the kitchen, scurrying to her room, and taking them apart to see if she could successfully put them back together.

That intense curiosity guided her throughout her childhood and through high school, where she was successfully involved in too many groups to mention. Kelly appreciated and looked for a good challenge. That led her to take three years of Russian in high school, become the editor of the high school's two literary magazines for both her junior and senior year, become the Drum Major of the school's marching band, and participate in every one of the school plays from second grade through graduation.

Her desire for challenge led her to college at Purdue, where she continued a rigorous schedule of studies. Her career in the Coast Guard has been monumental. On September 9, 2008, Kelly was the person on the controls at the communications center, coordinating all communications between boats, helicopter, and watch people in the "Miracle Rescue at Sea" of Walter Marino and his 12-year-old son, Chris. Walter and his son, who is autistic, were swimming in the Ponce de Leon Inlet in Florida when Chris was swept out to sea in an afternoon current. Walter swam after him. Somehow, they managed to tread water – although choppy and shark-infested – for over 15 hours. The father and son had drifted over a mile apart and neither knew the other's fate until they were reunited. The story made the national news and was covered by Matt Lauer on The Today Show (www.today.com/video/today/26638206).

Shortly after, she switched from boats to aircraft (which was her major at Purdue) and was transferred to the Coast Guard Air Station in Elizabeth City, North Carolina. On March 15, 2013, she participated in another miracle rescue – this time a container ship. She was onboard the Medevac helicopter rescuing a 47 year old from the Horizon Trader Cargo ship. The video may be viewed at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=TTNuziGjGnM. (Coast Guard medevacs man from cargo ship 200 miles east of Chesapeake Bay; Kelly's voice is heard on the video as she pulls him in).

Kelly and her husband Steven are raising four boys. Steven is also active career Coast Guard. Kelly is active in her community – teaching pre-school Sunday School, working with a group at her church that feeds the homeless, and serving as a Cub Scout troop officer.

She is, and has always been, incredibly kind-hearted and service oriented. Her boundless energy, curiosity, and courage have always been inspiring.

The Daughters of the O'Fallon Chapter DAR are proud to nominate Kelly Goede Dunn as Patriot of the Month and extend their gratitude for her patriotic service and commitment to our great nation.