

# Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution



## Patriot of the Month

June 2015



**Basil C. Hoehn**

*Sponsored by:*

**St. Joseph Chapter**



Basil was inducted in the US Army at Ft Leavenworth, Ks in July 1943. He attended basic training at Camp Hood, Texas, and the Army Specialized Training Program at the University of Illinois for one semester where he studied physics, history, and astronomy. When the program closed in January 1944, he was shipped to Camp Swift, Texas, for 4.2 Mortar Training. He was then assigned to the 91st Chemical Mortar Battalion, where he performed all positions of the mortar crew. His official classification was gunner until injury of his Sergeant, when he became squad leader and was promoted to Sergeant. Basil's unit was assigned as a pipeline guard for the fuel line Patton's tank Group while waiting for equipment deployment.

His first combat assignment was outside Bastoyne on Dec 24<sup>th</sup>, 1944. He was then part of a detached unit that was sent to various areas as needed. Their mission was to defilade fire and smoke screens. His unit was responsible for smoke screens for all of Patton's border and rivers crossings and attacks. The unit fired mainly High Explosive (HE) and White Phosphorus (WP) and smoke shells (FS) shells. They crossed the Rhine under direct eyes of General Patton, who was directing traffic to load on the Navy boats being used to cross while standing on the hood of his vehicle. It was quite a sight. While the initial experience was very trying, Basil proudly served his country and believes military duty is part of paying a debt to those that went before us.

Basil received the European Battle Ribbon, 4 Stars on the European Theatre Operations Ribbon, Bronze Star and Good Conduct Medal. He was discharged at Camp Swift, Texas, on November 11, 1945 with a rank of Sergeant.

Once discharged, Basil returned home to St Joseph, Missouri, where he married his high school sweetheart, Marietta. Basil earned a Bachelor of Science in Education at Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville, Missouri.

Between 1948 and 1955 he served as an assistant high school coach of various sports at Lafayette High School in St Joseph, Missouri. During that time he worked to earn his Masters Degree in Education at the University of Mo. He became Assistant Principal of Lafayette High School in 1955. He left Lafayette in 1972 to become the Principal of Bode Middle School until he retired from the public school district in 1986. In 1987 Basil accepted the position of Principal at the Co-Cathedral Elementary School where he worked until he retired in 1993.

Basil has 5 children, 11 grandkids, 6 great grandchildren. Basil has been active in the community since returning from the war. He served as a leader for Boy Scout Troop 47 for 18 years and attended the National Jamboree in Philmont, New Mexico. He was inducted into the Tribe of Mic-O-Say where he obtained the title of Chieftain. He served on the Boy Scout Advisory Board for several years also. Basil served as a part time EMT and spent several years volunteering as the Employee Shuttle Driver at the Heartland Hospital. He is an active member of MSTA, NEA, VFW, American Legion, and Knights of Columbus. He enjoys duck hunting and golfing.

The Daughters of the St. Joseph Chapter DAR are proud to nominate Basil C. Hoehn as Patriot of the Month and extend their gratitude for his patriotic service and commitment to our great nation.