

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution



Patriot of the Month

October 2015



Joseph Whitaker, Sr.

Sponsored by:

Missouris Shoal Chapter



Joseph Whitaker, Sr., a Veteran of the U.S. Army, Sergeant E5, served from April 1969 to February 1972, active duty and then inactive duty for three years with final discharge in April of 1975. He is a resident of Cameron, Missouri.

Mr. Whitaker took a bus from Hamilton, Missouri, to Kansas City where he entered the Army in April 1969. He was sent from Kansas City to Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, for basic training. After graduation he was sent to Belvore, Virginia, just outside Washington, D.C., where he was trained from July 1969 to February 1970 to work on heavy equipment for the military, which included trucks, dozers, backhoes, etc. After having a leave of eighteen days he was then sent to Fort Lewis, Washington, for one week to be trained as a rifler and the basics of war. After getting his shots he was headed for Vietnam landing at Cam Ron Bay in the southern part of Vietnam. He spent a little over a year there working on heavy equipment. He was part of the Heavy Machinery Maintenance Occupation Service. While there he was out in the forest area at the base of Whiskey Mountain and saw battle. He experienced monsoons and said you never knew who your enemy was. He has a scrapbook of pictures with his experiences which he shared. After Vietnam he was sent back to Fort Lewis, Washington, then to Fort Dix and Stuttgart, Germany, where he was a sergeant in the Motor Pool for one year in 1971. He was discharged from active duty from the Army in February of 1972 at Nellingen and Esslingen, Germany where he was stationed. He remained on inactive duty for another three years with a final discharge date of April 1975.

Joseph received several medals, including the Hazardous Combat Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Soldier of the Month Medal, the Army Commendation Medal for Meritorious Achievement in Connection with Ground Operations against a Hostile Force in the Republic of Vietnam from June 20, 1970 to December 1970. On September 1970, he was commended for superior performance of duties the last six months in A Company, 864th Engineer Battalion and received an upgraded rank and \$25.00 bond. Currently he is under medical care as the result of Agent Orange he was exposed to in Vietnam.

After his military service he returned to Cameron, Missouri, and worked as a farmer. He was also employed at the Cameron Coop for thirty-five years and retired from there. He worked at Walmart for seven years. After that he went on disability in 2008 as he was having increasing health issues. Mr. Whitaker was involved in his community being a member of the American Legion, VFW, Young Farmers Association, Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus, President of Cameron Booster Club, and Youth Baseball Coach. Joseph and his wife have three sons and one daughter and eleven grandchildren. They have a grandson stationed in Germany in the Army.

The Daughters of the Missouri Shoal Chapter DAR are proud to nominate Joseph Whitaker, Sr., as MSSDAR Patriot and extend their gratitude for his patriotic service and commitment to our great nation.