

# Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution



## Patriot of the Month

June 2016



*Phil R. Butler*

Sponsored by:

Caroline Close Stuart Chapter



Phil Butler was born and raised in Illinois. While living in Mascoutah, Illinois, he met and enjoyed many lasting friendships with those who were fondly called military “brats,” a name that the dependents of the active duty military used to identify themselves. Phil had an early love of airplanes and fondly remembers flying with a pilot who owned a crop duster airplane. Phil spent hours on and off base having fun with his friends who were the sons of active duty military. They attended such exciting events as air shows at Scott Air Force Base. Often Phil would spend the entire day viewing planes and visiting the base with other private citizens who were allowed as guests on base.

Phil enlisted in the U.S. Navy in a small Midwest town near Scott Air Force Base. While in the military, Phil was awarded the Company Academic Award while serving as Academic Petty Officer during boot camp. In Aviation Ordinance School he learned to handle multiple types of munitions. He then served at NAS Cecil Field and joined the Attack Squadron 174. He was transferred to NAS Lemore CA Attack Squadron 56 (VA-56). He was then permitted to end his enlistment to finish his college education.

Phil’s sister, Jean, recalls, “As the only son in the family, my older brother, Phil, was far more independent than I. He would go to the base close to our home on his bicycle. He traveled to the West Coast, Florida, and Arizona during his military years.”

Phil still remains in touch with friends from high school and SAFB. For example, he visits with friends from his high school band, called the Crescendos. Today, the band is comprised of men from Virginia, California, Missouri, Illinois, as well as other states. The band has played at high school class reunions for several years. Phil is active in tutoring, participating in equine therapy for young people with disabilities, playing music, and last but not least, his church.

The Caroline Close Stuart Chapter NSDAR and Daughter Jean Lorenz are proud to nominate Phillip R. Butler as a Patriot of the Month. They extend their gratitude for his service and commitment to our great nation.