

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution
Proudly Honors

Patriot of the Month



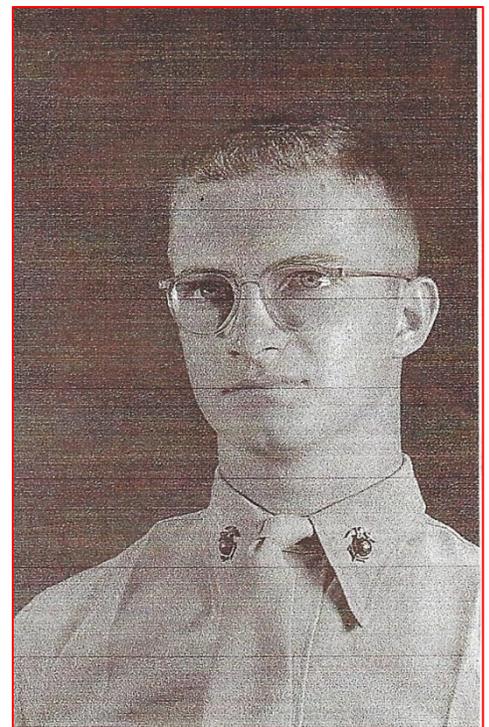
June 2017



Erwin K. "Ed" Pennington

United States Marine Corps

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Pike County
Chapter



Erwin "Ed" Pennington enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in 1955 in Michigan. He went to boot camp at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, California. He took infantry training at Camp Pendleton, California and then transferred to the Marine Air Wing School, Jacksonville, Florida. At Keesler Air Force Base, Biloxi, Mississippi, he was trained as a radar/radio operator.

Ed's overseas duty for six months was at a radar station near Pohang Airfield, Korea, designated K-3 and for 14 months at Marine Corps Air Station, Iwakuni, Japan. He was on maneuvers in the Philippines, Okinawa, and Formosa. He went to Hong Kong for Rest and Relaxation.

Following his overseas duty, Ed was transferred to Marine Corps Air Station, Opalocka, Florida and Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, South Carolina.

Ed's awards include: Honor Man of Platoon 123, promoted to PFC. He was meritoriously promoted to Sergeant. He was selected as Marine of the Month, Marine Wing Headquarters Group, 1st Marine Air Wing. His medals include Expert Rifleman, Good Conduct, National Defense, Korean Defense Cold War, Korean 50th Year Defense. During his eight years in the Corps, Ed said, "I was

instilled with the qualities of discipline, Esprit de Corps, and Semper Fidelis.” He was discharged in March 1963.

Ed and his wife, Darylene have two children, two granddaughters and two grandsons.

Ed attended a state university where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Geology and a Master of Science in Geology two years later. He was employed as a geologist and was also in management of a cement company. He is a member of the American Association of Certified Geologists.

Ed has been a member of the Presbyterian Church for 50 years and an Elder on Session for 10 years. He has served as chairman of the Church Building and Grounds committee for many years. He ensures the lights, heat, plumbing, etc., at the church are always in good working order. He has received the Missouri Union Presbytery’s Evelyn Bedell Award given to seniors who have given outstanding contributions to their church. He actively helps at the local Community Food Pantry and drives his pickup to a nearby town to pick up donated food items several times a month. He is active in his local country club’s senior golfers group.

Ed was the founder of a Mural Organization in his local community. While vacationing in a small town he noticed murals of local scenes, historical figures, etc., that had been painted on sides of buildings. When he returned home, he gathered friends and presented the idea to them and then to the city. There are now over 20 murals painted by local artists, adorning the walls of several downtown buildings. They are a tourist attraction and add much to the historic district which is on the National Register.

Ed is a life member of the American Legion. Currently he is Commander of his local American Legion Post. He founded the Veterans Color Guard and is a member, presenting the colors at 26 events since its inception in 2013. He is also a member of the Legion’s Memorial Squad who provide gun salutes at veteran’s funerals. Ed was privileged to go on an Honor Flight with his son, John, accompanying him. It was a special time for both of them.

Ed had this comment about his military service. “As a child raised during World War II, I thought the Marine Corps consisted of hardened men! The Corps actually consisted of young men such as myself. I was surprised how many enlistees were advised “to join the Corps or go to jail.” Ed learned the qualities he listed earlier and has carried those admirable qualities through his life.

Pike County Daughters are proud to nominate Erwin “Ed” Pennington as Patriot of the Month and extend their gratitude and appreciation for his dedicated patriotic service to our great nation.