

**Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution
Proudly Honors**

Patriot of the Month



January 2018



Lana S. Wright

United States Army

**Sponsored by:
Missouris Shoal
Chapter**

Lana enlisted in the United States Women's Army Corp in July, 1963. She went to basic training at Fort McClellan, Alabama. She then served at Letterman General Hospital, San Francisco, California; Fort Gordon Army Hospital, Augusta, Georgia; and William Beaumont General Hospital, El Paso, Texas. She cared for servicemen, servicewomen, and children while they were in the hospital.

Lana had many different experiences during her time in the service. One of them was when a seven year old girl in Germany had reached over burners on a stove and caught her clothing on fire. Her mother put the fire out and the child was transferred to Letterman General Hospital, San Francisco, California, where Lana was stationed. Lana helped calm her and put her in whirlpool baths for debridement to help remove dead skin so new skin could grow back. She was healed enough to be discharged and sent back home to Germany.

Another experience was when a boy, Johnnie, swallowed Drano and his mother did not know what to do, so she gave him water, which activated the Drano. He had to have a trachea which had to be cleaned often. He was the type of child that everyone loved and played with. His dad was on active duty so nurses were substitutes for family. He was transferred to the Army Hospital in Denver, Colorado.

Other experiences include - during the 1960's Lana helped adult Polio patients use the iron lung and children to use the portable iron lung, which covered only their chest area to make the child breathe.

She worked in the contagious wards for men, women, and children treating Meningitis, Malaria, etc., at Letterman Hospital. An American Samoan family's children had head lice. Neonatal intensive care unit treated babies in the isolation unit to search for the cause of open sores which was a genetic disorder.

After Lana's discharge in January, 1972, at the William Beaumont General Hospital, El Paso, Texas, she entered Olivet Nazarene College, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree and then her Registered Nurse degree from Penn College. Later she worked in various geriatrics wards in nursing homes, retiring in 2012. She is a member of the American Legion and teaches Bible Study in her church. Lana had one brother who served in Vietnam.

Through a friend Lana learned about the Honor Flight and completed an application. Prior to going on the flight, she attended the "Meet and Greet" luncheon where she received several items including a 50 year Vietnam pin. There were three women on the flight. Lana met her guardian at Reagan International Airport, a very special Canadian lady who had volunteered before and they have become very good friends. Visiting the many service memorials, she was able to place a vase of flowers at the base of the Women's Memorial, drive by Audi Murphy's tombstone and observe the impressive ceremony of the Changing of the Guard at Arlington Cemetery, and was greeted by waving flags, shaking of hands, and many thank you/welcome homes. At the Washington Airport, she danced with three men who said they never before had the privilege of dancing with a female veteran. It was a long day with special memories she will never forget.

Missouri Shoals Daughters are proud and honored to recognize Lana S. Wright as Patriot of the Month for her dedication, patriotism and service to our great nation.