

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

Patriot of the Month



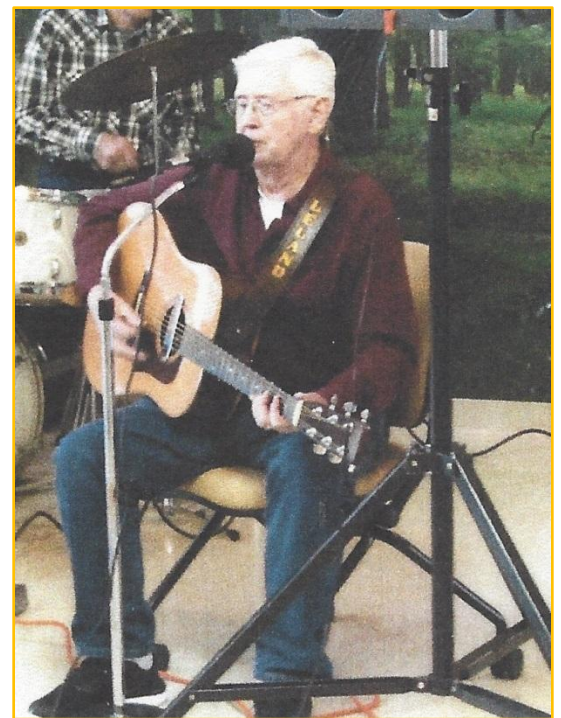
March 2018



Leland Edgar Schelp

United States Army

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Warrensburg
Chapter**



Leland was 20 years old when he joined the United States Army in 1953. Hostilities were about over in Korea, and we were entering the Cold War. He was never sent overseas. Leland entered the service at Camp Crowder, Missouri, went to basic training in the heat of Fort Bliss, Texas, was sent to Camp Kilmer, New Jersey, for a short time, and spent the rest of his two year enlistment at Fort Niagara, New York. His Military Occupational Specialty was truck driver. Previously, after he finished high school, he had been a truck driver.

Leland had always liked music, and one evening in a night club in Niagara, New York, he asked an entertainer if he could join in. He had his guitar in his vehicle. His playing and singing pleased the management. Soon he collected some other musicians and they began to hire themselves out. The income augmented the enlisted men's pay.

In May, 1955, Leland was sent to Fort Sheridan, Illinois, and released from service. He had earned a Good Conduct Medal, had some traveling experience and the desire to not only stay a truck driver, but to be a country music entertainer. He did exactly that. He drove a milk truck in rural Missouri for 40 years, collecting milk from farmers, and then drove the tank truck to the large city dairy company. Frequently, he and his fellow entertainers played and sang under the names of "Country Bumpkins," later changed to "Leland's Band."

After retiring from the dairy truck business, he started his own business with gravel dump trucks. There are now eight trucks with "Shelp Trucking, LLC (Limited Liability Corporation) printed on them. His two sons drive two of the trucks and the other trucks are driven by hired drivers. Leland and his first wife, the mother of his two sons, shared 30 years before she passed away. He married again and that marriage lasted 29 years. There are two stepsons and one stepdaughter from that marriage. Quite a few grandchildren call him "Grandpa."

Leland has always been a Lutheran and plans to be buried near his two wives. He is a life member of the American Legion. He entertained at a local nursing home before moving into a Veterans Home. Now, he sings country songs for those that live at the Veterans Home.

Warrensburg Daughters are proud to honor and recognize Leland Edgar Schelp as Patriot of the month for his dedication, patriotism and service to our great nation.