

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution
Proudly Honors

Patriot of the Month



April 2018



Wayman E. "Earl" Shackelford

United States Army

Sponsored by:
Rachel Donelson
Chapter

Earl graduated high school in 1966, in Kansas. He went to work at the Tri-State newspaper as a press operator and photographer. He was also a member of the Elkhart/Morton County Volunteer Fire Department. In Jun, 1968, he joined the United States Army and went to basic training at Fort Bliss, Texas. Advanced individual training was at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, where he was trained as a Radio Mechanic with 31 Bravo. In 1969, he was sent to Fort Gordon, Georgia, and trained as a Radio Repairman with 31 Echo. His next duty station was Vietnam, where he served as a Radio Repairman with Delta Company, 75th Support Battalion, 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized).

After his service in Vietnam, Earl was stationed at Fort Riley, Kansas, with Charlie Company, 121st Signal Corps Battalion. From there, he was sent to Germany for three years, where he was attached to the 3rd Armored Headquarters Company and served as the Communications Sergeant. He was stationed stateside for a short period of time at Fort Rucker, Alabama, but was sent back to Germany in 1975, where he worked in the Electronics Maintenance shop with the 699th Maintenance Company. In September, 1978, he was stationed back at Fort Riley, Kansas, with the 501st Maintenance Company. He left the service in June, 1979.

During his service, Earl attained the rank of Staff Sergeant (E-6) and received the National Defense Service Medal; Good Conduct Medal; two Army Commendation Medals; the Bronze Star for Meritorious Service; Vietnam Service Ribbon; Vietnam Campaign Ribbon; Presidential Unit Citation; Congressional Unit Citation; and Expert Marksmanship Medal.

After Earl left the service, he worked for a Kansas Public School as Superintendent of Building & Grounds; ISO-Frac Fractionation Company as plant operator; Federal Government as waste water treatment operator; and United States Army Corps of Engineers as utility systems operator. He retired in 2014.

Earl married Jana in 1971, and she accompanied him on both tours to Germany.

Earl is a lifetime member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He and Jana now make their home in southern Missouri, where they are active in St. Patrick's Church. They have two children. One son has served 15 years in the United States Army. They have seven grandchildren. They have also cared for 38 foster children in their home over the years.

Rachel Donelson Daughters very proudly honor and recognize Wayman E. "Earl" Shackelford as Patriot of the Month and extend to him their deepest appreciation and gratitude for his very dedicated, patriotic service to our great nation.