

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution Proudly Honors

Patriot of the Month

April 2019



Charles J. McClary

United States Navy

Sponsored by:
St. Louis Jefferson
Chapter

Charles J. 'Chuck' McClary enlisted in the United States Navy in 1958 starting a 30 year career. His basic training was at Great Lakes, IL where he qualified for Field Medical School at Camp Pendleton, CA. Chuck was attached to the Marine Corps for 11 years as a medic in various capacities. With the 3rd Marine Division, Chuck saw intense wartime service in Vietnam. Additional duty stations included Japan, Italy, Texas, Florida, Washington and Rhode Island.



Of his time in Southeast Asia, Chuck remembers being 'out in the bush' for ten days at a time without a break. As a medic, he was not allowed to carry a firearm and wore a shiny caduceus, a medical insignia indicating he was not an armed combatant. These caduceus had to be blacked out as the opposing forces intentionally targeted corpsmen.

During his time in the service, Chuck received a number of ribbons, ships' patches and chevrons, mainly during the first years of service. A St. Louis native, Chuck ended up back in St. Louis on his third tour of duty.

Chuck is happily married and actively involved with his family, friends and community. He has 14 grandchildren and volunteers at his local church and the U.S.O. He considers himself lucky. "I have two feet and a heartbeat," he says.

St. Louis Jefferson Daughters are very proud of Charles J. McClary and honored to recognize him as Patriot of the Month for his dedicated patriotic service to his community and our great nation.