

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution Proudly Honors



Patriot of the Month

October 2020



Mary Clapper

United States Army

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Taneycomo
Chapter

Mary Clapper started her Army career as a Nursing Supervisor who worked with medics and other military personnel at Joplin Hospital in Missouri. After 3 years working with leaders, she decided at the age of 42 to join the Army Nursing Program. Mary was already CCRN certified and had training and practice with helicopter nursing from ER nursing in Cameron, Missouri.

At the time that Mary joined the service the government was short of nurses with experience during the Persian Gulf era. After joining, she spent 18 weeks of basic training that included officer training, chemo warfare training and helicopter training. She was transferred to an Army hospital in Las Vegas.

She worked in Supervisor Nursing at Nellis Air Force Base in Las Vegas where she revised the nursing policies and procedures and was an instructor for medics and passengers for a year. She was transferred to Fort Bragg as a helicopter nurse where she taught and did training flights. They did night flights between Fort Bragg and Fitzsimmons Hospital in Aurora, Colorado where several of the soldiers were on ventilators. She was on call 24 hours a day 7 days a week with schedules being 24 on and 24 off and relied heavily on her sergeants. She became a traveling nurse and worked where they needed the help. She was hurt on a civilian job in 1992 and was released from service in 1995 as a Major. Mary received many medals including 4 Good Conduct medals.

Mary has 4 children, 8 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren. Her son also joined the army when he finished high school. She is active with the American Legion Post 1214. Five years ago, Mary and several other ladies started the SWMO Women Veterans. This organization sponsors camps for boys and girls, honor flights, flag presentations, and many other worthwhile projects.

Taneycomo Daughters are very proud of Major Mary Clapper and honored to recognize her as Patriot of the Month for her dedicated patriotic service to her community and our great nation.

