

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution Proudly Honors



Patriot of the Month

December 2020

David W. Ackerson

United States Army

Sponsored by:
Neosho
Chapter



David W. Ackerson began his service to his country by draft during the Vietnam War. He received the letter notifying him on his 19th birthday that he was to report for duty at Army Base Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri on August 11, 1968. After boot camp he was sent to Fort Huachuca in Southeast Arizona then to Fort Gordon in Georgia all the while receiving extensive training in communications before being sent to Vietnam.

After a brief visit home, he left Tulsa, Oklahoma on Mother's Day 1968 and flew to Phu Bi Vietnam where he was stationed as an ASA (which was a covert operation) with the 405th division of the 82nd airborne. He was attached to an airborne division even though he was not trained as a paratrooper. For the first few months after arriving at his station only 2 miles from the DMZ he did various duties while waiting for his top secret security clearance. Once he received his clearance, he was performing duties using Morris code and Tele type to encrypt and decrypt messages along with nightly duties of changing the Crypto code used. In this division he received a Bronze star. He was transferred to the 303 armored battalion where again he was using his training to listen to fire fights and monitor activity.

For his duties in Vietnam David earned two Bronze stars, the Vietnam Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Army Commendation Medal and the Vietnam Unit Citation Medal.

While in country he met several gentlemen that he was able to recall stories of friendship and brotherhood but due to the mental stress of his job and the Agent Orange he was exposed to he cannot recall any names only faces.

David has a true heart of gold and is a true patriot because he was willing serve another honorable tour in Vietnam if that meant his younger brother would not have to serve. After returning from Vietnam it took time to regain a normal life. It took months before he was comfortable with people wearing sneakers. Even years to be able to enjoy fireworks, however to this day the sound of helicopters and the smell of Diesel will quickly take him back to his time in Vietnam.

In the years that followed his service he raised a family with his wife Dollie of 50 years and a lifelong career in the flooring business. He has 12 grandchildren and is a Deacon in his local church where he plays the trumpet. He knows that he was kept safe by the Grace of God and a group of people including his parents and grandmother who prayed for him while in Vietnam.

Neosho Daughters are proud of David W. Ackerson and are honored to recognize him as Patriot of the Month for his dedicated patriotic service to his community and our great nation.