

# Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution Proudly Honors



Patriot of the Month

December 2020

**Otis Marvin Thomas**  
**United States Marine Corps**



Sponsored by:  
Osage  
Chapter

Otis Marvin Thomas is a member of the “Greatest Generation”, serving in the US Marine Corps during WWII. He entered the service in 1943 at age 18 doing boot camp in San Diego, CA, on to Camp Pendleton, CA and then overseas. Otis spent five weeks on Iwo Jima, experiencing violent fighting and witnessing many casualties. As with many, he has dealt with “survivors” guilt. After the treaty ended the war in the Pacific Otis was sent to mainland Japan. He encountered the young children of Japan, which helped him begin healing. Otis was honorably discharged July 31, 1946.

But it was 50 years later that Otis was able to begin talking about his time there. He did so in 1994 by writing a book called Come Walk With Me and later another book called Reminisce: Iwo Jima 60 Years Later.

During his time in the service, Otis was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation Combat Action Ribbon, Navy/Marine Corps Medal, Service Medal, Navy Occupation Service, and State Issue Medal.

Otis was married to his wife, Lois, for 71 years until her passing last July. He is the father of three daughters and one son, and grandfather of two granddaughters and two grandsons.

He is a lifetime farmer, raising livestock and crops. As a member of the First Christian Church, Sedalia, MO, he was a Sunday School teacher and choir member. He belonged to the VFW, 40 & 8 MFA, Scottish Rite, and was charter member of the Sedalia County Club.

Otis is a treasure to his friends, family community.

Osage Daughters respectfully honor Otis Thomas as Patriot of the Month and extend their gratitude and thanks for his dedicated patriotic service to his community and our great nation.

