

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution Proudly Honors



Patriot of the Month

February 2021



James Loran Baker, Jr.

Missouri Army National Guard

Sponsored by:
Jane Randolph Jefferson
Chapter

Jim enlisted on November 3rd, 1979 in the 175th Army Military Police Battalion, Missouri Army National Guard. He started his 8 weeks basic training on May 26th, 1980 at Fort Jackson, SC. After basic training he attended an additional 8 weeks in Supply School (Logistics Development). After completion of training he then returned to Fulton, MO to start his assignment at the Fulton Armory ranking as a private and serving as a Supply Sergeant for the next 3 years.

Jim then served as a Radio Operations Specialist. He operated a RATT Rig (Radio and Teletype Transmitter) Truck. His duties were to send typed messages via teletype to various locations. These rigs required a two-man team. This position had them traveling all over including Fort Hood, TX and Camp Clark in MO. On April 15, 1983 he transferred to the 867th Air Ambulance unit in Jefferson City, MO as their Supply Sergeant. In 1985, Jim was honored to compete in the All Army Marksmanship competition with the Army service weapon 45 caliber 1911 pistol. As he left the firing line a General told him that he was to serve as his bodyguard for a short tour of duty in Honduras during the Contra War. Jim completed 2 years of training for the UH1 helicopter and obtained his Crew Chief rating. On September 1st, 1990 Desert Storm War commenced. Jim was transferred to the 456th CECAT (Combat Enhanced Aviation Team) as a crew chief and Flight Engineer Instructor. He trained other Crew Chief on Mission Essential Task.

In 1990, Jim met his future wife, SFC Debra Stephens, who was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 135th Aviation as a Personnel Sergeant, to assist his unit and 3 others build from scratch.

In 1999, Jim was assigned to HHD 3rd Battalion 135th Aviation in Jefferson City, MO as Detachment Sergeant, where Debra was a Battalion Personnel Sergeant. While in this unit they attended Annual training at Fort Bragg in Fayetteville, NC being the first National Guard unit to go through a Drive Thru Live Fire Training exercise. The unit went to HI for training with their sister unit in a Field Training Exercise inside a dormant volcano. Jim's last annual training was Camp Crowder in Neosho, MO where he participated in Urban Combat training with the help of Eagle Paintball Company. The unit enjoyed this planning and training exercise.

He retired on February 28, 2003 in Jefferson City, MO after 24 years of service, with 20 years Active Duty.

Jim then worked for the Department of Defense for 7 years as a Family Assistance Center Supervisor. His job entailed assisting military families and helping with their Military benefits. In 2010 he started employment with the MO Highway Patrol as a Communications Technician, where he designs, equips, and maintains all of their vehicles. He is still currently employed there.

Jim is a member of the Christopher Casey Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution where he serves as the secretary and their Color Guard. He is also a member of the Roscoe Enloe Post 5 American Legion. Jim has been married to his wife Debbie for 20 years and together they have 5 children and 8 grandchildren

Jane Randolph Jefferson Daughters are proud to honor and recognize James Loran Baker, Jr. as Patriot of the Month for his patriotism and invaluable service to our great nation.

