

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution Proudly Honors



Patriot of the Month

February 2021



Leoma Marie Herrington

United States Army Reserve

Sponsored by:
Caroline Close Stuart
Chapter



Marie enlisted in the United States Army Reserve on August 24, 1979 in St. Louis, Missouri, at the age of 37 years. As a registered nurse with an extensive background in patient care prior to her enlistment, Marie was initially commissioned as a 1st Lieutenant. In May 1981, Marie earned her bachelor's degree in Nursing Management and was later selected for advanced medical training as a specialist in Nuclear, Biological and Chemical ("NBC") Warfare, which she completed at Fort Riley in Kansas. After graduation, she taught classes on the effects of NBC weapons, how to use and maintain individual protection equipment, decontamination and mitigation, and environmental restoration. In 1995, Marie completed the Army's intensive, three-year Command and General Staff Officers' Course, which emphasized organizational leadership, evolution of warfare and its applicability to military planning, and strategic analysis of military challenges.

Throughout her career as an Army nurse, Marie was deployed around the world, always ready to care for servicemen and women injured in the line of duty. In the summer of 1996, Marie was honored to serve as part of the Medical Support Team for the Olympic Games in Atlanta, Georgia. She was promoted numerous times throughout her career, ultimately to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, in recognition of her outstanding leadership, service, and dedication, as well as her willingness to accept any and all duty assignments. Marie retired as Lt. Colonel in 2003 after almost 25 years of dedicated service.

Marie earned the Army Achievement Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, and the Army Meritorious Service Medal. She also earned Certificates for Combat Medicine Training and for Advanced Officer Training. Marie's family also was awarded the Army Reserve Family Certificate in appreciation for the sacrifices they made during her many deployments.

After retiring from military life, Marie resumed her civilian nursing career, working at Barnes Hospital in St. Louis, Missouri. In 2019, Marie was a contestant in the Ms. Missouri Senior America Pageant. Her talent presentation, "Once Upon a Time," was an autobiographical sketch that embodied her philosophy of "It's never too late to fulfill your dreams," tracing her path from "humble beginnings" to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, United States Army Reserve, and a distinguished nursing career.

Caroline Close Stuart Daughters are proud to honor and recognize Marie Herrington as Patriot of the Month for her patriotism and invaluable service to our great nation.