

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution Proudly Honors



Patriot of the Month

March 2021

Marilyn Villegas

United States Air Force

Sponsored by:
Gilead Rupe
Chapter



The newest member of the Gilead Rupe DAR Chapter is Marilyn Villegas. Marilyn was born in Kansas City, MO in 1983 to Leonard (a Vietnam USAF veteran) and Judy Strobbe. With her father, two brothers, one sister and Marilyn, the family served in the US Air Force, US Marine Corps and US Army.

Marilyn was on the delayed enlistment program, awaiting space to attend basic training when the tragedy of 9/11 struck. Her date of entrance was moved up to September 26th. She graduated from boot camp at Lackland AFB in San Antonio, TX and then traveled to NAS Pensacola for tech school to learn how to be an aircraft structural mechanic.

Her first assignment was at Barksdale AFB in Shreveport, LA where she helped maintain B-52 Stratofortress bombers. In 2003 she deployed with the 2nd Maintenance Squadron (2nd Bomb Wing, Air Combat Command) to Anderson AFB, Guam in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Also in the year, Marilyn was awarded Airman of the Year for the 2nd Maintenance Squadron.

In November 2004, Marilyn was chosen for a special duty assignment at Hill AFB in Ogden Utah. There, she was in 649th Combat Logistics Squadron. Their mission was to conduct aircraft battle damage and crash damage repair. Technicians assigned to this squadron were taught the basics of other specialists' aircraft work with the intention of having an Airman perform the duties of another mechanic if he or she was injured or killed.

During active duty service she was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, Air Force Organizational Excellence Award, Good Conduct Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster, Longevity Service Award, USAF NCO Professional Military Education Ribbon, Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon (rifle), and the Air Force Basic Training Ribbon.

Marilyn was honorably/medically discharged from the USAF in 2006 and started work as an aircraft structural maintenance contractor. During her contracting career she worked in several states, one US territory, and two foreign countries. She worked on Army helicopters in Kuwait and Iraq in 2009.

In 2011, she performed contract work on B-52s at Tinker, AFB in Oklahoma City, OK where she met her husband, Pascual Villegas (who is also an aircraft structural mechanic and served the USAF and Department of Veteran Affairs as a civil servant for over 17 years). Together they have two children who are 6 and 4.

Marilyn was awarded permanent and total disability from the VA and currently farms heirloom garlic in her retirement. She is a member of the VFW and the Missouri Patriot Guard Riders. She enjoys volunteering at the VA hospital and at the Higginsville Veterans Cemetery, where her father is interred, for Wreaths Across America.

She has passed her love for America down to her children. Her son loves anything with bald eagles or American Flags. Anyone who knows Marilyn would describe her as one of the most patriotic people they know and if you ask her...she will tell you she bleeds red, white, and blue. Marilyn is extremely proud of all the generations of veterans in her bloodline all the way to her Patriot. Gilead Rupe Daughters are proud of Marilyn Villegas and are delighted to have her join them in DAR membership.