

# Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution

Proudly Honors

Patriot of the Month

January 2022

**George Befort**

**United States Marine Corps**



Sponsored by:  
Howard County  
Chapter

Lance Corporal George Befort enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in June of 1968. George grew up near Kansas City. His grandpa was from Croatia and his family was persecuted there. He grew up with a strong family bond. His father was a Marine in World War II and Korea. Both his grandpa and father ignited George's passion to serve. George's brothers were all Marines as were his two sons.

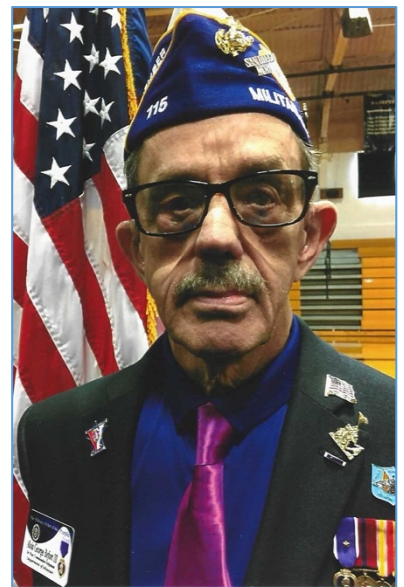
Following his basic training at Camp Pendleton in San Diego, California George left on Christmas Day 1968 for Vietnam to join the First Division, 26<sup>th</sup> Regiment and Company, USMC. He can to this day still remember the looks on the faces of his parents as he boarded the plane.

George received training in demolition, defusing booby traps, as a M/60 machine gunner and tunnel rat. He was stationed at the ESSO Plant on Highway 1, then later moved east of Hoi An. He then was transferred to Marble Mountain. George volunteered for the Combined Action Program (CAP). The CAP unit not only had the highest enemy killed and weapons captured, they also had the highest wounded and killed in action by percentage. They were responsible for calling in close air support and were overrun many times.

During his time with the CAP unit, George went to school for two weeks to learn the language and worked closely with the villagers. He enjoyed working alongside them in the rice paddies and worked with corpsman in delivering two babies. He was attacked by three wild boars, but the boars lost the battle and were good eating! George was surprised to see tigers in Vietnam and also primates the GI's called "rock apes."

The best advice that George received in Vietnam was "listen to the old guys" and "pass the information onto the new guys". He was once asked if he could hide behind a piece of grass!

For his service, Lance Corporal Befort was awarded the following: two Purple Hearts, the Combat Action Ribbon, the Navy Presidential Unit Citation, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy Unit Commendation, the Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Medal, the Vietnam Service



Medal, the Vietnam Gallantry Unit Citation, the Vietnam Civil Action Unit Citation, and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

George was honorably discharged from the Marines in February 1970 upon returning to the states after being wounded in Vietnam. He didn't speak much about being wounded only that he saw his grandpa from Croatia while waiting to be airlifted to the hospital.

George spent over 30 years as a truck driver and moved to Fayette from Kansas City just over a year ago to be close to family. George currently serves as the Senior Vice Commander Adjunct for the Military Order of the Purple Heart Organization. He was instrumental in getting Fayette listed as a Purple Heart City this month. He is also a member of the local American Legion Post 273; belongs to SAR, and DAV. He received a Quilt of Valor during our Memorial Day celebration in May 2021.

George said the best thing we can do for Veterans is to listen to their story. He advocates for Toys for Tots, an organization close to his heart.

Howard County Chapter Daughters are proud to honor and recognize George Befort as Patriot of the Month for his patriotism and service to our great nation.