

# Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution

Proudly Honors

Patriot of the Month

February 2022



**Clifford C. Holmes, Jr.**

**Army Air Corps**

Sponsored by:  
John Sappington  
Chapter

Clifford C. Holmes, Jr., son of Clifford Sr. and Daisy Holmes, was born September 17, 1926 in Fairbury, Nebraska. He played football in high school as a wing back. Since it was a small school, he played both offense and defense, and the local community college often practiced against the team. While a senior, he enlisted and reported after graduation to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, for training in radio communications. He also trained at Scott AFB IL, Austin TX, and North Field, CA. He kids that "I got all the shots but didn't have to go." His military stint was completely stateside. He also teases that the enemy found out he enlisted, so they surrendered immediately. In December 1945, he was given three options: go to Japan for clean-up, join the Reserves, or go home. He opted to return to his waiting redhead, Cleta Vestal. They married in Fairbury, NE on December 21, 1947.



In his civilian life, Cliff worked for Campbell Soup and Purina, working in Minnesota, Maryland, Oklahoma, and ending up in Missouri. He was a "numbers" guy and traveled all over the world performing efficiency studies at manufacturing plants.

He is the Father of David, Donald, and Terry, Grandfather of seven, and Great-Grandfather of seven. Cliff is part of the daily WWII "brain trust" that meets for breakfast to discuss the world situation, the management of the St. Louis Cardinals, the service wait staff. Cliff and his friend Gordon Shull met at Webster United Methodist Church in Webster Groves, and have golfed and enjoyed retirement together. They traveled together with the April 2017 Honor Flight and were honored with a standing "O" at Busch Stadium, complete with JumboTron coverage. Honor Flight and the JumboTron were their two favorite moments! Cliff says the key to living long is to have a buddy to share it with and breakfast five times a week at Denny's with five cups of black coffee.

The Daughters of the John Sappington Chapter are very proud to recognize Clifford C. Holmes, Jr. as Patriot of the Month and extend their gratitude for his patriotic service and commitment to our great nation.