

# Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution

Proudly Honors

Patriot of the Month

February 2022



## Laura Irene Newman

### United States Air Force

Sponsored by:  
Sarah Barton Murphy  
Chapter

Laura Irene Newman enlisted in the Air Force in the Vietnam Era on January 20, 1972, in York, Pennsylvania. Laura served at many duty stations including Turkey, Taiwan, Texas, and Crete. SSgt. Newman said, "I loved all the places I lived; it was like being a world history class and very eye opening with different cultures". SSgt. Newman also traveled to Germany, Spain, and Greece.

In the service, Staff Sgt. Newman was a Morse Systems operator for almost 10 years and was in Base Contracting for 10 years. During the start of the Gulf War in 1990, Laura was assigned as a load planner and was able to see all the insides of all the airplanes being loaded up where she made sure all planes were properly balanced and loaded up in Austin, Texas. Also, at this time, SSgt. Newman was in a qualification course on M-16 rifles. Laura excelled over the men in taking guns apart, cleaning and re-assembling the guns and then in Marksmanship!

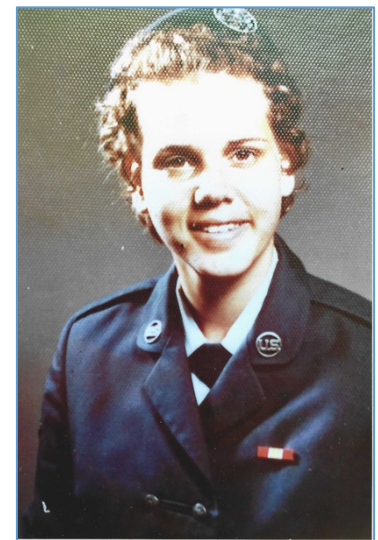
Laura Newman received many medals and commendations including 3 Outstanding Unit Awards, Overseas Short and Long-term Ribbons, Air Force Longevity Ribbon, Academy Ribbon for Noncommissioned officer, 4 Good Conduct Medals, and the National Defense Ribbon. Laura Newman is most proud of beating all the guys for her Marksmanship Medal!

The best piece of advice Laura said she received was to obey all the base rules as well as the rules in the country where you are stationed. "Adapt to your Area."

In Mrs. Newman's civilian career, she worked in food service in both schools and public facilities. She did data entry and front desk work often working two jobs because of her husband's illness.

After her military service, Laura continued with service to her community volunteering at the Senior Center and also teaching knitting and Loop-it Classes. Mrs. Newman also taught crafts to children and read books to classes in the Rockin' Reader Program. Laura was also a Sunday School Teacher and a hospice companion. Currently Laura Newman is a member of the Women's Veterans of America.

Laura's husband, George, who was a Tech Sergeant, passed away in 2004 after 30 years of marriage. George and Laura met in Turkey and were married in Pennsylvania and have three children (one son and two daughters). One daughter, Brenda, was born in Germany. While in the hospital,



mother and child were visited and presented flowers by the just rescued American Iranian hostages. It was a happy time for mother and child and freed hostages!

During her military service, Laura was on a bowling league while pregnant with Annie where Laura got 4 strikes in a row to win a bet for a bowling tradition of a “crying towel”. Laura and George made sure their son, John, was not born on April 1! John Newman was born on April 2, a luckier day, thanks to all 3 efforts!

Thank you, Laura, for your military service and community service and sharing your stories with us! Congratulations from the Sarah Barton Murphy Chapter, NSDAR. We are honored to recognize you as Patriot of the Month.