

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution

Proudly Honors

Patriot of the Month

March 2022



James Allen Kopetsky

United States Marine Corps

Sponsored by:
Mary Sibley
Chapter

There is nothing more honorable than when the men and women of America serve their country in the United States Armed Forces. Master Sgt. James Allen Kopetsky, Ret., proudly served 20 years in the U.S. Marine Corps. He had a varied and interesting career in the service which gave him the opportunity to use what he learned and then taught those skills to other Marines throughout his many tours.

Starting out in boot camp in San Diego, CA in 1964, Jim saw that the military was probably going to be his way of life. Transferring to Camp Pendleton, he received his initial training to be a supply clerk. Then it was further supply training at Montford Point, NC. That in itself wasn't too difficult to learn, but the early training was going to pay off in more ways than one. He then made his first overseas duty station at Chu Lai, Vietnam working in his field as supply clerk. Back at Camp Pendleton where he was the supply clerk, he became familiar with automated supply procedures and became interested in computer. At Quantico again, he decided to reenlist at attend Computer Science School and learn computer programming. In the meantime, he was taking courses on his own working toward an Associate degree.

Second overseas tour to Okinawa, he applied for and received a transfer to the 9th Marine Corps District to attend Johnson County Community College to complete his Associate degree in data processing. Then it was back to Quantico, VA to be a computer sciences school instructor where he taught computer programming and then attended the IBM systems programming course. He earned his BS degree in Computer Science. Again, being transferred to Okinawa, he worked as systems programmer. Now in Kansas City, MO, he worked the Automated Services Center on Bannister Road where he served the first systems programmer for the center, then on to the Retired Marine Corps payroll team as their systems programmer where he received a Navy Unit Commendation for completing and implementing the system. When he retired in 1984, he walked across the street, and began working at Allied Signal, formerly Benxi, ultimately Honeywell.

Throughout Jim's career, he earned the Good Conduct Ribbon six times; National Defense Ribbon once; and the Vietnam Service and Vietnam Campaign Ribbons. He received the Vietnam Cross for Gallantry with Palm Medal. He also earned the Sea Service Deployment and Combat Action Ribbon for his service in Vietnam. He and his team were rewarded with the Naval Unit Citation for writing and implementing the payroll systems program for the retired military personnel which tracked the retired Marines pay.

Jim is very much involved in his community volunteering at Rock Brook Church teaching small groups; he also gives of his time to the new Raymore Historic Museum. The Ray-Pec Sunrise Optimist Club gives him a third avenue of volunteering his time to assist the youth of Raymore.



The most important thing he said he learned early in his career was to work hard, keep your nose clean, and you will advance in the military and make your country proud of your service.

Mary Sibley Chapter Daughters are proud to honor and recognize James Allen Kopetsky as Patriot of the Month for his patriotism and invaluable service to our great nation.