

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution

Proudly Honors

Patriot of the Month

March 2022



Richard A. Mongillo

United States Air Force

Sponsored by:
Caroline Close Stuart
Chapter



Richard Mongillo enlisted in the United States Air Force on 7 February 1951 in New Haven, Connecticut, in the early days of the Korean Conflict. After completing Basic Training at Sampson Air Force Base on the eastern shore of Lake Seneca, New York, he was selected for Technical Training at Lowry Air Force in Denver, Colorado. He was then assigned to Brookley AFB in Mobile, Alabama for advanced aviation and weapons systems training and then to Keesler AFB in Biloxi, Mississippi for military technical school. He was later assigned to Carswell AFB in Fort Worth, Texas, the home of the B-36 "Peacemaker" Bomber, where he spent the rest of his time in the service. The mission of Carswell AFB was to train and support heavy strategic bombing wings. At Carswell, Richard was a member of Strategic Air Command's 7th Bomb Wing, serving as a gunner, part of the 15-man B-36 flight crew. He logged more than 700 flight hours and flew all over the world. With its enormous size, spanning 230 feet from wingtip to wingtip, its capability of flying at an altitude of 40,000 feet, its flight range of more than 10,000 miles, and its capacity for massive payload delivery, the B-36 was America's primary deterrent to aggression by the Soviet Union during the Cold War.

Richard earned the Korean Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the United Nations Service Medal, and the Korean War USAF Good Conduct Medal. Richard attained the rank of Airman 1st Class and served for four years. He received an honorable discharge on 1 February 1954 at Carswell Air Force Base, Fort Worth, Texas.

After his discharge from the USAF, Richard returned to the University of Connecticut where he earned his degree in mechanical engineering. Upon graduation, he accepted a position at North American Aviation in Los Angeles, California, where he worked on a team to produce the X-15 series of experimental aircraft, operated jointly by the USAF and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). The X-15, which shattered every speed and altitude record in the 1960's, provided data used in aircraft and spacecraft design for decades. Richard later worked as Engineering Project Manager for Emerson Electric's Electronics & Space Division in St. Louis, Missouri.

Richard and Chris, his dear wife of 67 year, live in Lake Saint Louis, Missouri, and have three children, five grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Caroline Close Stuart Daughters are proud to honor and recognize Richard Mongillo as Patriot of the Month for his patriotism and invaluable service to our great nation.