

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution

Proudly Honors

Patriot of the Month

June 2022

Paul John Coleman

United States Army

Sponsored by:
Louisiana Purchase
Chapter

Paul John Coleman was a meat cutter in the St Louis Meat Cutters Union when he was drafted in the US Army on October 8, 1970. After completing six weeks of basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, MO, he was sent to Fort Sill, OK for Advanced Individual Training as a Gunner on Heavy Field Artillery, specifically the 155mm Howitzer.

His next assignment was Fort Richardson, Alaska where the Artillery Unit was based. This is where he had Advanced NCO Training to advance his rank. He also experienced Arctic Ranger Training at below freezing temperatures and ate and slept in the fields for 10 nights. At Fort Richardson, Alaska, they were on Red alert all the time. As a result of this, he was sent back and forth to Vietnam.

On April 13, 1972, he was honorably discharged from Fort Richardson, Alaska as a Staff Sergeant E6.

John's experience in the Army was highlighted by meeting interesting guys. He was amazed that they came from all walks of life. Yet they are all Americans ready to defend their country. He still stays in touch with two of them that live in Tennessee and Oklahoma. "I appreciate the time I spent in the military." John emphasized. "If I had to do it all over, I would do it again." He is proud of his military focused family. His dad, brother, uncles, and several cousins were all in the military. He would like the Selective Service System, the Draft, to be reinstated. There are opportunities for education, acceptance, self-worth, and honor. He feels strongly that we wouldn't have the problems we have today if more had the opportunity to be in the military. Incidentally, John received his Associate Degree at Jefferson College with the G.I. Bill.

In 2017, he was surprised to be chosen for the Honor Flight, which recognizes American veterans for their sacrifices and achievements. John was scheduled to go as a guardian and after interviewing him, they insisted he participate as a veteran. His son, Bryon, accompanied him as his guardian.

Continuing to be active as a veteran he is a member of the Twin City Amvets Post 171. His unit take supplies to VA hospitals, visit veterans in nursing homes, place flags on veterans' graves and clean cemeteries.

John recently completed his biggest accomplishment. His brother, Jim, was killed in hostile fire action in Kon Tum Province on February 29, 1968. John petitioned the MO Department of Transportation to get a stretch of highway from Truman Blvd (Hwy 61-67) from Herculaneum to Festus to be known as the Sgt. James F. Coleman Memorial Highway. It was an involved process, but the mission was finally accomplished on March 4, 2022.

Father of two sons, Bryon and Chris Coleman and three grandchildren, Grayson, Kylie and Evie, he is presently married to Sandy Ohl Coleman.

The members of the Louisiana Purchase Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution are proud to nominate Paul John Coleman as Patriot of the Month and thank him for his dedicated service to our country.

