

# Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution

Proudly Honors

Patriot of the Month

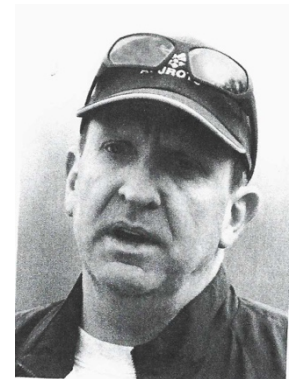
June 2022

**Michael Goodin**

**United States Air Force**



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Chapter



Colonel Goodin has quite a resume after many years and duty stations in the United States Air Force; however, his current title at the Cape Central High School, in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, is Senior Aerospace Science Instructor. Asked why Col. Goodin decided to join the US Air Force, he emitted a chuckle and quickly gave his reasons:

"I was always drawn to the military. My father and uncle both served in the Army for a time. I also had a great uncle who served as Master Sergeant in the Army and served in World War II and the Korean War. In high school I had a friend who was a private pilot who took me up flying one day and I decided that I wanted to serve my country by flying for the Air Force."

After graduating from Southeast Missouri State University and receiving his commission through Air Force ROTC, Goodin attended flight school at Columbus AFB Mississippi, where he earned his wings. Because the Air Force had too many pilots at that time, he was then assigned to Kirtland AFB, New Mexico, as a Security Police Officer where he led over 300 airmen in securing the base and its resources. He learned a lot about the art of leadership during this assignment.

Goodin then returned to flying and was assigned to Eglin AFB, Florida, to fly the Special Operations HC-130 with the 9<sup>th</sup> Special Operations Squadron but was only there for a few months before being transferred to help build up the new 4<sup>th</sup> Special Operations Squadron at Hurlburt Field, Florida, flying the new AC-130U gunship. The AC-130U was given everything needed for close air support to special ground teams. During his time in the gunship, he deployed several times to support military operations in the Balkans.

Indicating the dedication that Col. Goodin had for the Air Force after many years of flying, he came through when medically grounded with an inner ear problem and adapted quickly to a new post, retraining as an Intelligence Officer, based in Hawaii. He must have done very well as his next assignment was to the Pentagon to work on the Headquarters Air Force Staff as a strategic programmer in a confidential area. Still climbing in his field of expertise, gaining management experience, Goodin was then selected to work on the Secretary of Defense's special task forces to assist in the Middle East. He was deployed to Iraq with the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency to lend his special abilities for Iraq and Afghanistan.

Finally, he had a small change of pace: Although he was still in the field of Intelligence, Goodin was assigned as the Chief of Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance for US Africa Command in Stuttgart Germany. He was able to have his family with him and enjoy some of the sights.

Retiring from the Air Force in 2016, Col. Goodin decided to return to familiar ground – Cape Girardeau. That didn't last for long. As with most military retirees, he wished to keep serving and noticed that Cape Central High School did not have a JROTC (junior reserve officer training corps). Goodin saw an opportunity, one that would

take a lot of paper work and coordination between the school and the US Air Force. With persistence, he was able to start-up the new JROTC unit in 2018. JROTCs are based on military structure, but there isn't any military commitment for the high schoolers who enroll. Instead the program focuses on developing leadership and character, while also instilling the core values of integrity, selfless service, and excellence. Goodin's JROTC program gives cadets opportunities to learn about leadership, responsibility and exposes them to technology such as drones, cybersecurity, rocketry, robotics and flight simulators. It also develops teamwork and hands-on activities. Just in April, the student reserve officers complete a 14-mile hike to Perryville, MO, Vietnam Veterans Memorial in order for the young people to honor the men of the Bataan Death March in World War II and the hardships the captives suffered – and many died. Not so the Cape Central HS JROTC cadets. Worn and tired, Col. Goodin pulled them through with an excellent example of perseverance. The Cape Central HS JROTC is in its fourth year and is making a big impact on the community as well as in the lives of the cadets.

Col. Michael Goodin's achievements:

Defense Superior Service Medal, Bronze Star, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Aerial Achievement Medal, Joint Meritorious Unit Award with Valor, Combat Readiness Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism-S, NATO - Eagle Assist, and NATO - Balkans.

What did he enjoy while in the service: "I really enjoyed working with our allies in combined operations in NATO, and security cooperation missions in the Middle East and Africa."

Civilian interests/memberships: VFW Trustee and Kiwanis Club of Cape Board of Directors.

Col. Goodin is married to his wife, Ivonne, and has three children: Lainey who graduated from the University of Memphis; Erica, who currently attends the University of Missouri; and Gabriel, who is a Junior at Cape Central High School.

Michael Goodin graduated from Cape Central High School in 1987 and from Southeast Missouri State University in 1991.

Nancy Hunter Chapter Daughters are proud of Colonel Michael Goodin and are honored to recognize him as a Patriot of the Month for his dedication, patriotism and service to our great nation.