

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution

Proudly Honors

Patriot of the Month

June 2022



Karen Taylor Wendell

United States Air Force

Sponsored by:
Niangua
Chapter



When Karen Taylor grew up on Long Island, NY, becoming a nurse was a dream, so she attended Boston College and received a BS in Nursing. After several years as a labor and delivery nurse in a small hospital in New York state, Karen fulfilled another dream, that of travel, and joined the Air Force as a nurse. She met and married her husband Karl Wendell while in the service.

Karen has two memorable experiences while in the Air Force. One was the three months she was deployed to an Air Transport Hospital in Turkey as an assistant chief nurse. The hospital provided medical service for the NATO forces. Another memorable experience was in 1991 when she was assigned to serve on a Humanitarian Flight into Iraq. Citizens flocked there in hopes of receiving treatment for severe conditions which the mission wasn't prepared to treat.

The best advice Karen received as a nurse was 'Don't act like you know everything'.

Karen's military assignments include stateside assignments at Barksdale AFB, Louisiana; twice at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois; Blytheville AFB in Arkansas and Sheppard AFB in Texas. In addition, she served overseas at Miasawa AB in Japan and Wiesbaden AB in Germany. Military duties include Staff Nurse, Flight Nurse, Flight Clinical Coordinator, Head Nurse and Clinical Nurse Specialist.

Awards Karen received while in the Air Force included the Air Force Achievement Medal, the Commendation Medal, with four (4) Clusters and the Meritorious Medal with three (3) Clusters.

In 1994 after twenty years of service while stationed at Scott Air Force Base, Karen retired with the rank of Major. She and her husband remained in Illinois where she worked in a local hospital. After several years, they moved to Florida where Karen worked in a hospital and in home health. Karen and her husband adopted their daughter while living in Florida. When Karen finally retired from nursing, she served her community by volunteering at a local food pantry. She was involved in education by serving as a long-term substitute teacher in a classroom for students with cognitive impairments. She also served on a local school improvement committee. In October 2021, Karen and her husband moved to Missouri.

Karen is a member of the Niangua Chapter DAR and 50-year DAR member.

Niangua Chapter Daughters are proud of Karen Wendel and are honored to recognize her as a Patriot of the Month for her dedication, patriotism and service to our great nation.