

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution

Proudly Honors

Patriot of the Month

November 2022

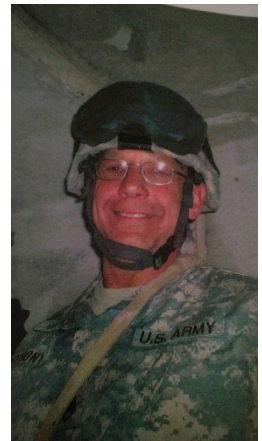


Darrell Anthony

United States Air Force/Army

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In 1972 at the age of 17 Darrell decided that enlisting in the Air Force would be a good way to get a "steady job." Since his father was a WWII and Korean War veteran he knew that there would be a possibility of seeing other parts of the world in the process. Basic training took place at Lackland AFB in San Antonio. Darrell had experience with mechanics and was given three choices from which to choose an area of expertise. He chose the route of missile mechanic which was a state-side duty down the road at Whiteman AFB ... so much for seeing the world. Fortunately for his wife, Virginia, and two young daughters, Angela and Jessica, it meant he would not have to be apart from them for long periods of time. After Darrell served nine years in the Air Force he still felt the pull to serve his country so he enlisted in the Air Force Reserves. He served there in the air transportation service. Ironically, he got to see more of the world while serving in this capacity. He served 23 years total in the Air Force and retired as SMSgt E8.



In 2001, after the Twin Towers fell, Darrell reported available for duty once more, although was not called upon to serve. However, while working for FedEx he was on a job and noticed that right next door was the Kansas Army National Guard. Yep, he walked up to them and asked if he could once again serve his country in that capacity. During his time with the Army National Guard he worked with the ground transport unit and the Black Hawk helicopters.

In 2005 he went to Iraq for 18 months and in 2010 he served in East Africa for a year. While in Iraq Darrell asked if he could crosstrain and serve as a chaplain assistant which he did after returning stateside. The State Captain in Kansas then asked Darrell if he wanted to go to Djibouti for a stint so off he went to serve there. He stated that serving in Djibouti was one of his most positive experiences in the military. Their job was to provide security for the seabees who were there to "go about doing good works." This included putting in wells to provide clean water for the people and encouraging young men to stay in their communities instead of enlisting in nefarious other opportunities that were abundant in that area.

Darrell retired from military duty in 2013 after 32 years of service, retiring once again as MSG EB. He said at age 60 they pay you more to stay away than to show up for duty. While serving with the 351st Strategic Missile Wing unit he received the Presidential Unit Citation. He has received the Meritorious Service Medal in both the Air Force and the Army as well as other commendation medals. Darrell made use of the educational opportunities provided to him and used the Vietnam GI bill to get his degree in Power Technology and the Post 911 GI Bill to get his master's in religion. Darrell was ordained at First Baptist Church in Independence and for a while worked at Research Hospital as chaplain.

He has volunteered also as a hospice chaplain, is chaplain for the VFW, volunteers at University Health hospital, and is part of a John Knox Village veterans group. He also volunteers weekly at the VA hospital working with veterans and their families. Darrell always serves in the church where he lives. He has a passion for those with special needs and currently is the teacher for the Special Needs Ministry at First Baptist Church in Lee's Summit.