

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution

Proudly Honors

Patriot of the Month

November 2022



Andrew Schmidt

United States Army

Sponsored by:

Mary Hempstead Lisa Chapter, NSDAR

Andrew Schmidt was born October 12, 1986, in Milford Massachusetts. He is the son of Mike and Chris Schmidt of St. Louis, MO. He graduated from Parkway West High School in 2005 where he was active in Boy Scouts, achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.



Drew enlisted in the Army soon after high school. His motivation for serving was seeing videos of 40–50-year-old reservists being called up to fight in the War on Terror and thinking that younger people should be doing the fighting. All of his Army training, including Airborne School, was completed at Ft. Benning, GA. He was then assigned to the 82nd Airborne at Ft. Bragg, NC.

With the 82nd Airborne, he served 15 months in Iraq. His duties ranged from personal security detachment and driver for his first sergeant and for general staff touring their area of operations. In addition, he and his unit patrolled with both Iraqi Army and Iraqi Police personnel and served with a reserve quick response force. A lot of their mission was humanitarian, but they also flushed out snipers, IED placement teams and militias as they popped up. When he was shot, he was going door to door to homes to see how many people needed generators. When crossing a street, he was shot by a sniper.

While in the Army, Drew was awarded the following medals and ribbons: Army Commendation medal, Purple Heart, National Defense Service medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal Campaign Star, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, Combat Infantryman Badge, Parachutist Badge, and the Driver and Mechanic Badge.

For Drew, the most interesting thing was walking around the markets in Baghdad while on patrol and seeing the unusual mix of items available in the market. The market had electronics to spices and everything in between. The best advice he was given was: "Keep Your Head Down". And the most important skill he learned in the Army: how to sleep in any position at any time of day, even while standing up!

After the Army, Drew was a private armed security officer, but realized that wasn't the best fit for him. An Army buddy who had been a paramedic in Los Angeles, had told lots of stories of his work, and that made Drew interested in health care. Drew decided that nursing would be a stable career and provide him a good living wage. In 2012, he graduated from Hannibal LaGrange Junior College with an Associates Degree in Nursing, and later earned his Bachelor of Science in Nursing Degree from the University of Missouri at St. Louis. He currently works as a Nurse in the Emergency Department at Saint Louis University Hospital in St. Louis, MO, and worked through the COVID Pandemic. He has been nominated for "Daisy Awards" by co-workers and patients for the excellent nursing care he delivers.



His nursing specialty certifications include Trauma Nurse Specialist, Advanced Trauma Certified Nurse, Certified Emergency Nurse, Trauma Certified Registered Nurse. He is a member of the Emergency Nurse Association, and the Missouri Emergency Nurse Association.