

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution

Proudly Honors

Patriot of the Month

December 2022



Gineth E. Hudson

United States Army

Sponsored by:

Matilda Polk Campbell Chapter, NSDAR

Gineth Hudson embodies our DAR motto of God, Home and Country. This 100-year old veteran is one of our last members of “The Greatest Generation,” having served our country during World War II. He was drafted in 1944 and served in the Pacific Theatre of war in the Philippines and Japan. He was awarded a Purple Heart because of wounds he received in action.



Before he served his country, he helped his dad and grandfather on the family farm. His older brother had already gone into service so Gineth, being the only son at home on the farm, was eligible for a deferment. Because so many of the young men had gone to war, Gineth had helped other farm families with running equipment and putting up hay. However in 1944, he answered the call to serve his country. His dad was left to farm, by himself, the land that had previously been farmed by four other families (including Gineth’s brother) who were in the service.

Basic training was at Camp Robert in California and then they shipped out on December 31, 1944. They joined up with other ships and came to the island of Mindoro in the Philippines where they joined the 21st Infantry. Gineth was in a machine gun squadron, heavy duty weaponry unit. While here, he was given the opportunity to have driver’s training – which he did. His brother had told him to take all the training they offer to give you – and that was good advice. Eventually they came to Mindanao and when they asked the guys, “Who has had driver training?” And Gineth was the only one to raise his hand. So he became a jeep driver, bearing supplies and weaponry from the back up to the soldiers that needed such. He also carried wounded from the field of battle back to the aid station. And sometimes he was detailed to drive important people, high ranking officers, around.

It was while he was in the Philippines that he was injured by a grenade. As recently as last year, he still has shrapnel that has worked its way to the surface of his skin. While he was in the hospital recovering from the grenade hit, he also acquired the measles. So that was quite a time for him.

Towards the end of the war, the unit was moved to Japan. As companies were disbanded, more jeeps were given to their unit and Gineth supervised the motorpool. At the end of the war, he had achieved the rank of buck sergeant.

In Japan, they were based on the island of Honshu. He was often sent to Kagoshima which required him to use the tunnel under the ocean connecting the island of Honshu with other islands. He also was able to see a lot of the Japanese countryside. For awhile, they had a motor officer who would come to him and say, “Get a jeep. Let’s go for a ride.” He was able to see many sites in Japan while they were waiting on a ship to bring them home. They were in Tokyo when they boarded a ship to sail home to Seattle and then rode a troop train to Chicago. It was August of 1946 when he arrived back home to northern Missouri!

After he returned home, Gineth answered the next call on his life and began pastoring churches in north Missouri. He married his wife, Jane, and together they have celebrated 71 years of marriage! They moved their family to Bolivar, Missouri, where Gineth completed his associates degree and later his Bachelor's degree. He taught school in Pleasant Hope, Missouri, while pastoring small rural churches. He "retired" from pastoring at the age of 90 years! Gineth also served his community as the first chaplain at Citizens Memorial Hospital when it opened its doors in 1982.

Gineth and Jane raised four children who have also followed in dad's steps of service. Their oldest son works in bank security and has trained many others in that field. Their daughter has taught school and then became the first employee for Citizens Memorial Hospital in 1981. The next to youngest son is a pastor in Texas and the youngest son has been a fire chief.

Gineth comes from a generation that was able to live and thrive through hardships – whether depression, war, rationing, or difficult living situations. He knows how to work. He knows how to drive a team or a jeep or an automobile. He can do carpentry, repair plumbing, fix what is broken and problem solve the situation to find a solution. He also knows that God has had a hand on his life, has led him and protected him and brought him to where he is now.

As a community, we have honored Gineth this veteran's day. His 100th birthday was November 10, 2022. Besides a card shower from people around the state, his family arranged for the Warriors Guard, a motorcycle group of veterans, to honor him with a parade. There was an article in the Bolivar Herald-Free Press about Gineth's life and also in the Baptist Pathway, published by the Missouri Baptist Convention. The mayor of Bolivar signed a proclamation and personally delivered it to Gineth along with a proclamation signed by Missouri Governor Mike Parson. Matilda Polk Campbell chapter, NSDAR, seeks to honor Gineth as our Patriot of the Month and would like to see him honored through MSSDAR as well.

