

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution

Proudly Honors

Patriot of the Month

December 2022



Carl Riddle

United States Marine Corps

Sponsored by:
Platte Purchase Chapter, NSDAR

Carl E. Riddle enlisted in the Marine Corps May 29, 1964. He was stationed at Camp Pendleton in California. During basic training, he was aware that the drill instructors were trying to break them. This was done because being in combat required he be mentally trained to withstand inhuman circumstances. He had come straight off the farm and was at least used to hard work so fared better than some.



From there he spent thirteen months in Vietnam. The Marines he was with established a Marine base at Chu Lai on the coast. He helped battle to claim the area for the base and away from the Viet Cong. He remembers the sound of artillery being constant, keeping him awake, and the sound of choppers landing, unloading the wounded and killed soldiers then taking off spreading sand everywhere. They were expected to dig fox holes in sand with rain, heat, choppers all around. He always had to be on alert. While in the jungle in the infantry, he learned to not kick anything and not to pick up anything as it could be a trap or an explosive.

Carl remembers waiting for the care packages from home. They were highly valued.

Upon returning to the States as a Corporal E-4, he was with the Headquarters Company doing office work and other errands for officers. He was in the flame thrower section. He feels very fortunate to have returned with 95% brain capacity and very little PTSD though he did have nightmares. He has worked through the 5%.

For his service he earned the National Defense Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal and the Navy Unit Commendation. He isn't sure there is anything positive about being in a war, but he is positive about life and is thankful to God for being home and able to lead a productive life.

He did not reenlist when his time was up in 1967. Though he would have liked to, he felt that surviving one tour in Vietnam was miracle enough and not to try for two. Living in Virginia, he kept his connection with the military in construction and as a weapons instructor. He worked for the Department of Defense. Later he worked at the VA Medical Center in Leavenworth.

Carl is a member of the Masons. He has two children and one grandson.

Platte Purchase Chapter is honored to have Carl as a Patriot of the Month and to recognize his Patriotic service to our nation.