

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution

Proudly Honors

Patriot of the Month

December 2022



Gary Riddle

United States Army

Sponsored by:

Platte Purchase Chapter, NSDAR

When Gary Riddle was drafted, he ended up spending from June 21, 1967 to June 20, 1969 in the Army. He was sent to Fort Leonard Wood for Basic Training and then to Fort Sill in Oklahoma for advanced artillery training. His training was tough, but prepared him for where he was going. From Oklahoma he was sent to Vietnam from October 1967 to October 1968. Sergeant Riddle was based in the Pleiku Air Force base, and spent much of his time in the jungle just two miles from the Cambodian border with the 51st Artillery division. The worse part was at night, when jungle sounds could not be identified. It was a hair-raising experience. His artillery skills were put to use to support ground troops with 105-millimeter Howitzers and self-propelled tanks with 155 and 175 millimeter ammunition. He was there and survived the Tet Offensive.



Gary remembers the noise of the guns, and the effect on his hearing. He appreciated the buddy system, what they did for you and what you did for them in spite of the conditions being brutal. For his service he earned the Army Commendation Medal.

After being honorably released from active duty, Gary worked for the Railroad as a car inspector and relief supervisor. He is a lifetime member of Post 445 American Legion, having served as Post Commander and Regional Vice Commander. He now is in a Tractor Division of the American Legion created in 2019, the first in the nation. They provide tractor parades sometimes with seasonal decorations such as Christmas lights. In addition, he has received his fifty-year pin in the Masons.

Gary is married and has three children and four grandchildren.

Platte Purchase Chapter is honored to recognize Gary Riddle as Patriot of the Month for his patriotism and dedicated service to our nation.