

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution

Proudly Honors

Patriot of the Month

February 2023

Janet Smith

United States Army

Sponsored by:

Gilead Rupe Chapter, NSDAR



Janet Smith is proud to be a farm kid born and raised in Missouri. When it was time to graduate from high school, few girls were offered scholarships for college and her parents didn't have the money to send her. The odds were not in her favor. If she wanted to go to college, she needed to find her way there. With little advice from teachers or family, she somehow found herself in an Army recruiter's office in Independence, Missouri. After being whisked away to take the ASVAB, she was recruited into the Military Police -958 MOS that very same day. After basic training at Fort McClellan, Alabama and AIT, she was sent to Mainz, Germany to work as a military policewoman. After serving honorably in the 8th Infantry Division, she was promoted to headquarters where she worked for the 8th Infantry Division's Crime statistician. She reported directly to the commander and provost marshal. During her service, she received the Army Commendation Medal. After six years of serving her country, she left the army to pursue college. Though older than most of the other college students, she was very happy to at last be in the classroom.



Janet considers her time spent in the United States Army to be the best decision she ever made. She had the chance to learn about leadership from some of the best leaders in the world and traveled to faraway places. She also made life-long friendships. More importantly, she earned tuition money to continue her studies.

After fifteen years of upper-level college studies, Janet earned a PhD from the University of Missouri and an MBA from Colorado State University. She taught undergraduate and graduate college courses for 32 years. Now that she's retired, she hasn't slowed down. She enjoys time with her three children and one grandchild. She still teaches one course a semester—just for fun. She is a 3rd generation owner of Borgman's Dairy Farm and owns Borgman's Farmstead Store located in Odessa, Missouri. Her store sells products made from their goat milk and products of other local farmers. There are also classes offered from cheese making to fiber arts.

Knowing firsthand how hard it is to survive the death of a spouse, Janet is reaching out into her community. She is currently teaching a 13 week GriefShare program for local widowers and widows.

Janet believes that the day she stumbled into the recruiter's office was her lucky day. She is a proud veteran of the United States Army and displays a sign proudly on her shop window.