

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution

Proudly Honors

Patriot of the Month

February 2023



James N. Striler, Sr. United States Marine Corps

Sponsored by:
Louisiana Purchase Chapter, NSDAR

James Norman Striler, Sr., enlisted in the United States Marines in the summer of 1956 during his junior year in Southeast Missouri State University. Completing his basic training at Camp Pendleton, San Diego, he was sent to Pensacola, Florida for air school training. From there he was assigned to Jacksonville, Florida for further air school training. His next assignment was Memphis, Tennessee for electronics school.



Following his training classes, Jim was assigned to the Marine Base at El Toro, California. From San Diego he boarded a ship and twenty-two days later arrived in Japan. On the way, he experienced a typhoon and was excited to cross the International Date Line. Jim recalled, “the time difference on either side of this line is 24 hours. We changed dates as soon as we crossed the line.”

Using his electronic skills learned, he worked on jet airplanes and helicopters in Japan. In addition, he played Marine football. Unfortunately, Jim dislocated his right arm and was in the hospital for a month. When he was released from the hospital his base was ordered to leave because of the Taiwan Strait Crisis. When he searched for his supplies, he discovered they were all stolen, except his shoes. Boarding a plane to Taiwan, he was one of the few selected Marines for the mission of the Taiwan Strait Crises. Jim received a special medal from Chiang Kai-Shek for his involvement in the Conflict.

There were two squadrons in Taiwan. He pointed out with glee that he was responsible for putting Lee Harvey Oswald in the Brig for fighting and hitting a sergeant.

Stationed at Treasure Island, California for the last three months of Jim’s marine career, he was honorably discharged as a Corporal in October of 1959. In August 1960, he returned to Southeast Missouri State University with a full scholarship to play football. Graduating from there in 1962 with a Major in Physical Education and Minor in History and Social Science, he also completed his military career in the National Guard reserves. Later he received his master’s degree from Murray State University.

After graduating from Southeast Missouri State University, in 1962, he started working at St Pius X High as football coach and teacher of Government and Citizenship. From there he went to Festus High School coaching basketball and football. He also taught Biology, Zoology, Botany, Physical Science, Chemistry and Physical Education.

Retiring from Festus High in 1993, he continues to be active in the community. He belongs to the Am Vets, VFW, American Legion, K C' s, Elks and is a life member of the Missouri State Teachers Organization and the National Retired Teachers Association.

Married to Erline Oberle for 60 years, they have two children, Jim Jr., and Deborah and four grandsons.

The Daughters of the Louisiana Purchase Chapter NSDAR are proud to nominate Corporal James Norman Striler, Sr. as Patriot of the Month and extend their gratitude for his patriotic service and commitment to our great nation.