

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution

Proudly Honors

Patriot of the Month

April 2023



Ken Kasten

United States Marine Corps

Sponsored by:

Little Blue River Chapter, NSDAR

Ken is a veteran of the Vietnam War. When he received his draft notice in 1966, he immediately enlisted in the Marine Corps at his local recruiting office, entering the Marine Corps on 03/11/1966.



He was stationed in Okinawa, Japan; DaNang, Vietnam; Okinawa again; then ElToro in California; Vieques, Puerto Rico; and finally Cherry Point, NC where he was sent to inactive reserves on 07/29/1968. He was honorably discharged on 03/10/1972. During his term of active service, he was a Special Radio Operator.

Ken was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Republic of Vietnam Commendation Medal and the Good Conduct Medal.

Ken said the most interesting part of his deployment was meeting the Vietnamese people. While stationed in DaNang on Hill 357, his quarters overlooked the DaNang Air Force Base, and he was able to watch the aircraft take off and land. His second duty station at Hoi An, was an artillery battalion on all sand. He said it was like living in a tent on the beach. All around the station was a high berm 20 feet above the tent. He would lie awake at night and watch the tracers overhead. In the distance, he could watch jets making missile attacks. At his third duty station, he adopted a pet mole that got between the folds of the tent. The best advice he received was, "Keep your head down". This was good advice, as once while riding in a jeep, a fellow marine had his arm up on the roll bar, and a piece of shrapnel hit him under his arm, missing his vest, and killed him.

After his discharge, he finished college and became a computer systems programmer. He worked for several different companies including TWA and AMDOL where he worked on contracts including AT&T, Yellow Freight, DST and the Armed Services.

Ken is a member of the Knights of Columbus. He is currently a member of ENCORE Theatre Group and CTI Theater Group. He has performed in over 40 stage productions and about a dozen movies. He also sings with the American Opera Studio.

Ken has five children between the ages of 42 and 29, and a 14-year-old granddaughter who is also a singer and actress. All his children play piano and multiple other instruments as well as singing.