

# Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution

Proudly Honors

Patriot of the Month

April 2023



## Kathleen M. Swanegan

### United States Nurse Corps

Sponsored by:

Caroline Close Stuart Chapter, NSDAR

Ms. Swanegan was raised in a military family, one of ten children. She grew up and became a nurse and worked one year in a neighborhood hospital. She felt pulled toward being a military nurse and her father (who was in the army and a Lieutenant Colonel at the time) commissioned her as a second lieutenant in the USNC in Cherry Hill, New Jersey in May 1976. She then attended Officer Basic Medical Training at Sheppard Air Force in Wichita Falls, TX. She was assigned to Nellis AFB in Las Vegas, NV where she learned how to care for patients across the healthcare spectrum, caring for babies, medical and surgical patients and cardiac patients.



She was sent to flight school and trained in ways to provide care to airmen as they were being transported to a hospital for further care. She learned to adjust to air emergencies such as rapid decompressions and hypoxia. She met her husband at Nellis where he, too, was a nurse. She then decided to leave the service and got married after honorable discharge from service. Her husband became one of the first squadron commanders in the nurse corps. They lived four years in Germany and three in England while her husband continued to be promoted.

She worked with many military families through the Military Readiness Program focusing on healthy coping methods and developing strong, healthy support systems. All the while taking care of their three children. The children also became used to being part of a military family. Grown now, both sons work at University of Missouri, Columbia (one is Dean of Admissions for the Law School and one Assistant Director of Endowment for the University) and their daughter is an assistant principal for the Charter School, Momentum in Tower Grove, MO. She has four adoring grandsons. One wrote a poem about "Who is your hero? and he chose her.

I met Kathy where I now live at Twin Oaks at Heritage Pointe, Senior Living. Here she works with all residents helping with spiritual needs and wherever she feels she can be helpful and making us older people feel important and loved.