

# Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution

## Proudly Honors

### Patriot of the Month

May 2023

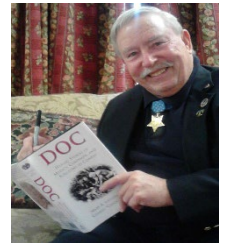


## Donald E. Ballard

### United States Navy

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Gilead Rupe Chapter, NSDAR

Donald Everett Ballard (Born December 5, 1945) is a retired colonel of the Kansas National Guard and former member of the United States NAVY as a 2nd Class FMF Hospital Corpsman.



Mr. Ballard hails from the Kansas City area and enlisted in the US NAVY in 1965. After recruit training and then Hospital Corps school he volunteered to serve with the United States Marine Corps and attended a Field Medical Service School. In 1967 after completion of his training he was sent to Viet Nam attached to M Company, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division in the Quang Tri province, South Viet Nam.

HC2 Ballard was nominated for the Medal of Honor in 1970 for his actions while on his deployment in South Viet Nam. This is a short synopsis of his actions.

On May 16th, 1968 HC2 Ballard was returning from the casualty aid station going to his platoon when his rifle company was attacked by a North Viet Nam infantry(NVA) unit. Under enemy fire and attending to a wounded Marine, an enemy hand grenade landed near the wounded Marine and four other Marines. He immediately covered the grenade with his body to shield the five Marines from the blast. Realizing that the grenade had failed to explode, he threw the grenade out of harms way as it exploded, saving these Marines and himself. HC2 Ballard continued to attend other wounded Marines for the duration of the fire fight. For his actions on this day he received the Medal of Honor from President Richard M. Nixon.

HC2 Ballard was also awarded during his service: Three Purple Hearts (Medal with two Gold Stars). NAVY Combat Action Ribbon, NAVY Good Conduct Ribbon, National Defense Service Ribbon, Viet Nam Service Medal with FMF Combat Operation Insignia and two Bronze Stars, Republic of Viet Nam Meritorious Unit Citation (Gallantry Cross) w Palm and Frame, Republic of Viet Nam Meritorious Unit Citation (Civil Actions) w Palm and Frame, Republic of Viet Nam Campaign Medal w 1960 - Device.