

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution

Proudly Honors

Patriot of the Month

May 2023



Patricia LeComte

United States Army National Guard

Sponsored by:

Jane Randolph Jefferson Chapter, NSDAR

Patricia Henke Lecomte from Taos, MO graduated high school in 1973. Upon her graduation she laid the groundwork for her career in the military when accepting a civilian job as a personnel clerk at the HQ Missouri National Guard. It was during this time frame that many military personnel whom she worked with provided the initial encouragement for her to enlist thus becoming the first step in a three-decade military career.



I joined the National Guard on the Buddy system with a friend from high school, we went to Basic Training at Ft. Jackson S.C. for eight weeks and graduated in 1975. After basic training, we were sent to Lowry AFB in Aurora CO to start a 32 week Advanced Individual Training (AIT) course in Basic Still Photography. During that 32 week school I learned not only how to operate the "Old box style" cameras, but to mix chemicals used to develop and print film in a darkroom, I learned how to take portrait, aerial, and still shots throughout my training.

At the time when Women's Army Corps was fading from existence and women were integrated in the regular U.S. Army she returned to Missouri in the summer 1976, and began drilling with her unit HQ 35th RAOC.

The following year in 1977 I went back to Colorado and joined the Army National Guard in Denver, where I was hired as a personnel clerk to the Chief of Staff for the Colorado National Guard. After working and drilling at the headquarters for a year she applied and was hired at an AGR (Active Guard Reserve) job with the 14th Med Hospital in Aurora, CO. as a fulltime Training NCO. I planned and executed training for a 100 bed hospital I unit. During this time she attended school at Ft. Sam Houston to receive training as a combat medic. In the late 70's she met her husband Tom Lecomte a Vietnam Veteran, who was also serving in the Colorado Army National Guard as a maintenance officer in an aviation unit. They married in 1980 and in 1981 both transferred to the Iowa Army National Guard. Tom as a facility commander and Patty as a training NCO of a 45 personnel detachment. 296th Medical Detachment (Dispensary). This unit was a field hospital unit and spent many weeks and weekends in a field environment setting up a medical dispensary for the many soldiers participating in the Field Training Exercises. As a Staff Sergeant she was the detachment sergeant and also attended a 30 day training exercise in Stuttgart Germany where the ambulance unit of her Battalion was deployed for a REFORGER training exercise.

In 1988 she had her son Josh, and temporarily left full time employment with the National Guard. But

missing her military times, she shortly joined the 5041st USAR school in Davenport Iowa as a personnel sergeant and instructor. It was there she was promoted to Sergeant First Class (E7).

In 1991, Tom, Patty and their 3 year old son Josh returned to Patty's hometown of Taos Missouri. Patty immediately joined HHC 35th Spt Command in Jefferson City where she served in this unit until 2005, Tom went into the retired reserve .

In 1992 Patty ran into an old friend from the Missouri National Guard who was commander of a new program, and he hired her as the Operations NCO for the Missouri Counterdrug Program. She supervised and managed 6-10 soldiers from Army to Air in the Central Office. She also was responsible for the training and daily operations Of over 70-100 soldiers and airmen working with their individual units and law enforcement.

In 1993 Patty went on a 2 week training exercise with her unit to Panama where her unit supplied logistical support to Engineer units building roads in the jungles of Panama.

In 1996 Patty and her husband adopted their 8 year old daughter from Russia, this being one of the greatest challenges but rewarding experiences for this family.

In 1996 Patty was promoted to Master Sergeant, for the rest of her career, she worked and drilled in the Jefferson City area.

Patty retired from fulltime military duty in May 2005. I took 6 months off with my family, and went right back to work as a civilian for the Missouri National Guard, working in the Family Program, with the G1 personnel office, and recruiting office.

I never deployed to a Combat zone, but my husband was a true Vietnam hero, flying helicopters in Vietnam, and my son Josh joined the Missouri National Guard in 2008 and was deployed to Afghanistan from 2009-2010 in the aviation field. As a 30 year veteran, it was tough to watch my son go off to war. But Tom, my family, friends and our community supported us through with love, friendship and especially prayer.

I now volunteer at many church functions, in the library with the kids at St. Francis Xavier Catholic School and for almost 20 years have assisted my friend Judy in serving our military and their families through the Mid Missouri Military Food Pantry.

My awards are: Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal (2awards) Army Achievement Medal (2Awards), Army Good Conduct Medal, (5th awd) Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal (5th Awd), National Defense Service Medal (2 Awds), Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal (2nd Awd), Non Commissioned Officers Professional Development Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon.

Schools and Courses Still Photography School 32 weeks.

7IL Administration Course, 7IG Patient Admin Course, 91B Combat Basic Medic Course, Primary Leadership Development Course, 76Y Unit Supply course, Microsoft Office for Windows Course Personnel Administrator Course, Advanced Non-Commissioned officers course, Phase 1, Advanced Officers course Phase 11, Sexual Harrassment and EEO Course, Automated Logistical Specialist Course, Reserve Component Multi-functional Combat course, Nuclear, Biological and chemical counterdrug safety course, Risk Management course.