Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution

Proudly Honors

Patriot of the Month

June 2023

Michael A. DeGrange

United States Army

Sponsored by:
Gilead Rupe Chapter, NSDAR

Michael Allen DeGrange enlisted into the Army just after he graduated from high school in 1987. He soon moved from his childhood home in West Valley, New York to basic training at Ft. Jackson in South Carolina. He also trained at the Red Stone Arsenal in Alabama, where he specialized in Explosive Ordinance Disposal (grenades, mines, etc...). He excelled during Primary Leadership Development Course learning at Ft. Campbell in Kentucky. Finally, he trained in personnel duties at Ft. Benjamin Harrison in Indiana. Michael was fortunate to learn a variety of skills during his training period in the Army.

He was then stationed at Ft. Richardson in Anchorage, Alaska and Ft. Wainwright in Fairbanks. While in Alaska, he drove 5 ton trucks (which carried computers) and he was an M203 Gunner (firing M16 grenade launchers). During downtime he had the opportunity to visit Mt. McKinley, fish for salmon, experience close encounters with moose and other wildlife.

Following his time in Alaska, he was dispatched to Ft. Sheridan in Illinois where he finished his time. Michael was not ready to leave the armed services, but President Bush called for significant downsizing. At this time in history the Gulf War was coming to a close and the U.S. had to re-coup some of the billions of dollars spent on the War. He left with a rank of E4 promotable.

Michael moved to Denver after he left the Army, where he found a job working at the Veteran's Administration Hospital, as a medical support assistant (processing the necessary paperwork for patient admissions, discharges, transfers, etc.).

He has a 23-year old daughter, Elizabeth, who lives in Colorado. His mother Barbara and sister Kathy (and family) still live in New York. Michael now lives a calm life in Kansas City with his girlfriend Cindy and dog Mama K.

Michael is still working at a VA Hospital (in KC). Although his dream of staying in the Army was not meant to be, he has the honor of helping (or just visiting with) veterans every day.