

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution

Proudly Honors

Patriot of the Month

July 2023



Jim Whitworth

United States Army

Sponsored by:
Henry County Chapter, NSDAR

Jim married Lana Henry in June 1965. They were married one and a half years before he was drafted in the Army in December 1966. Jim started at Fort Leonard Wood, MO before being sent to basic training in Fort Jackson, SC and advanced training in Fort Belvoir, VA. Jim and Lana lived in Alexandria, Virginia for six months before his orders for Vietnam in 1967. The Virginia assignment was a great tour of duty. While living in Alexandria they were able to see the cherry blossom festival, the Washington Monument fireworks display and tour all of the Washington D.C. attractions.



The day before Jim arrived in Vietnam as a chaplain's assistant all but three of the unit had been wiped out. He was sent to Cholon, close to Saigon, to guard the river from attack. He was reassigned as a clerk typist and sent to HQ & HQ 59th Maintenance Battalion at Long Bien. When he made E5 he was assigned a NCOIC of all highly classified documents. He was given a jeep, weapons and delivered classified documents around South Vietnam. During that time he saw many things the government said weren't there but. . . . He served in Vietnam during the TET Offensive. Jim was never scared or worried making his rounds. On the way home to Missouri he realized how well God had taken care of him. Two highlights of his time in Vietnam were a R & R in Hawaii with his wife and attending the Bob Hope Show for the troops. Jim received the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, and Vietnam Campaign Medal.

Jim returned to Missouri after his honorable discharge and had a 36 year career with a natural gas utility, Missouri Gas Energy. Spending 25 years in Warrensburg, MO. Jim served as a municipal judge, president of Sweet Springs Chamber of Commerce and served on the Sweet Springs Fair Board. Jim and Lana have two children and three grandchildren and have been active in several Baptist churches as they moved with their work. They retired in 2005 and live in Lincoln, MO.