

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution

Proudly Honors

Patriot of the Month

August 2023



Pat Livingston

United States Army

Sponsored by:
Clark County Chapter, NSDAR

The oldest of six children of the Walz family, Pat grew up in Quincy, IL. Her father had been the first person from Quincy injured while serving in the Navy during WWII. Returning, he sold War Bonds all over the state of Illinois. He was also a catcher for the Minor League Baseball Team currently known as the Quincy Gems. One of Pat's best memories when she was about 4 years of age, was that she could be in the dugout with her dad while he wasn't playing but had to sit on top of it while he was on the field. To support his family, he made glasses with Bausch & Lomb, then later did maintenance at Blessing Hospital. Her mother also worked outside of the home as an elevator operator in the WCU Building. Pat spent a lot of time at her grandparents' farms. They had veggies, fruits, hogs, and Percheron horses. She was demoted from strawberry picking due to consuming too many. In high school, Pat worked for a local photographer supporting customers at the counter and assisting them with their wedding albums. Pat had always been a bit of a tomboy, climbing trees, working on cars, and playing ball. Her mother said, "If you want to be a boy so bad, why don't you go down and join the Army." So, Pat joined the Women's Army Corps (WAC) in 1965.



Pat had Basic Training at Fort McClellan, AL where the WAC provided the training operations for all female officers and enlisted personnel entering the U.S. Army.

While most of the women in the service at that time were nurses or in the secretarial pool, Pat was sent to Fort Monmouth, NJ to the Army Signal School/Signal Corp where she asked to be trained in photography. Her high-school job had piqued her interest in the subject and wanted to learn about developing images in a dark room. Her commander came to her and said, "You need to call your mother – she has been calling the base". Upon calling home, Pat's mother said "What did you do? The FBI is here talking to your teachers and everyone!" Unknowingly, Pat was getting a back-ground check for security clearance.

It wasn't all work all the time. Pat said that while in NJ, small groups would take transistor radios and lunch to have beach parties on their days off.

Pat was then sent to Fort Holabird, MD-the U.S. Army Intelligence School and Counterintelligence Records Facility. Here, she processed classified photos. Pat then took on a temporary duty (TDY) hanging out of a helicopter looking for entrances to the tunnels with infrared film in Vietnam.

Once she returned from Vietnam, college classes lead to her being the first female instructor for Photography in Signal School-training the trainees - for a year.

Sometime in there, she married one of her students and that cost her a stripe.

Pat was discharged in 1967 as a Specialist 4th Class. She then moved to Fort Sill, OK where her significant other was stationed. While relocating from Oklahoma to Vermont to be with her mother-in-law and sister-in-law while her husband was being shipped to Vietnam, she delivered her first child on the turnpike.

Her husband was gone for about 18 months with no income and no contact when she got a call from the Chaplain. Expecting the worst, that he had perished in combat, Pat found out that he was in prison for being AWOL all this time. They temporarily reconciled and lived on a ranch in Vermont, their section was on top of a mountain housed cattle in the late gestation/delivery section. (Grampa's farm did not prepare her for this!)

Continually evolving, Pat has held various positions through the years including when she thought she was going for an interview with the mayor in Vermont as a cleaning lady-they hired her as a cop instead. Once she moved back to the Quincy area, she was a currier for IL State Patrol for several years. Pat then placed neglected/abused children for Family Services for 7 years. She was also a Pinkerton at LaGrange Foundry where she got to know the local police. Moving to the Canton/LaGrange area, Pat became a city police officer when they found out she had law enforcement training and was then dispatcher for 8 years. After the flood of 1993, she owned and operated a liquor store with a friend until the casino came to town in 2001.

Today, Pat is involved with several organizations. The Civic Club gives scholarships to local graduates. A Ladies Veterans' Group meets at the Veteran's Home to support any female veterans and invites them to come and talk about PTSD. Pat also serves as Commander for the Adams County Chapter 32 Quincy IL Disabled American Veterans (DAV). Their forget-me-not flowers have allowed the DAV to purchase the van that takes veterans to Iowa City, replace all the Christmas trees at the Quincy Veterans Home, build a ramp for a veteran in Camp Point, pay an electric bill for veteran's widow, and excess funds are gifted to the activity fund at the Quincy Veterans Home. Currently, Pat is reviewing the membership list for deceased individuals and frequently answers questions from veterans across the country trying to locate their nearest DAV. She has served the time limit for DAV Commander-but will support the incoming Commander in the on-boarding process.

A self-proclaimed history buff, Pat was honored by the Sons of the Civil War Soldiers for assisted in fencing and landscaping at the Civil War monument. She also was instrumental in getting the LaGrange Veteran monument erected and organized a large dedication day for it and was honored by Rep. Munzlinger for her efforts.

Her family's military service started with her father and continued through her son, daughter, grandson, and granddaughter. Pat enjoys the comradery of all veterans - she specified that no matter when or how you see them, you still see them as if they are in uniform.

Pat said that to her, being patriotic means being willing to give anything to keep this country free - even at this age she would go into service again if called. And that anybody can be patriotic by not being afraid to fly the flag.

Pat enjoys gifting the flag. She and her daughter purchase flags to distribute to local individuals when the colors they have posted are a little ragged. Pat stated, "The flag is our country - if the flag isn't flying you don't care about our country - it means so much to active military." They have given away at least 100 flags and arranged for flags to be placed on veterans' graves in LaGrange.