

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution

Proudly Honors

Patriot of the Month

September 2023

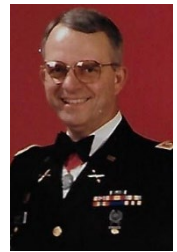


Gene Henry

United States Army

Sponsored by:
Henry County Chapter, NSDAR

Gene was a member of the first ROTC class at Central Missouri State College and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in November 1970. Following this, he attended Field Artillery Officer Basic School at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. He then entered the Missouri Army National Guard and attended weekend drills as well as annual training. Throughout his 28 years of service, he continued his military education with many courses. He earned the Field Artillery Officer Advanced School certificate and graduated from the Army Command and General Staff College. Gene commanded field artillery batteries in Independence, Richmond and Albany. He also commanded a battalion in Columbia.



One of Gene's most memorable duties occurred while he was Executive Officer of the Delta Battery, 1st Battalion, 129 Field Artillery in Independence. On December 27-28, 1972, he was called upon to direct the firing of two 21-gun salutes at Harry S. Truman's funeral. This unit was commanded by Mr. Truman during WWI. They fired the first salute with six howitzers when Truman's body arrived at the Truman Library and the second salute at the conclusion of the funeral.

Gene continued his training throughout his years of service. He trained in many states in all kinds of terrain and weather under widely variant commanders. The best pieces of advice he was given were that he should provide succinct answers to questions asked and that only a fool makes a decision before knowing all the facts.

Awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the Missouri State Emergency Duty Ribbon, and the Missouri National Guard 25 Year Service Ribbon. He also received marksmanship badges and the Presidential Unit Citation awarded to 1st Battalion, 129 Field Artillery for service during WWI.

In his civilian life, he taught school for three years and then worked in banking for 40 years as well as refereeing several different sports.

Gene has served on a wide variety of boards and committees, ranging from Whiteman AFB Community Council, Windsor High School Master Scholarship Endowment Fund, Truman Chapter of the U.S. Field Artillery Association, Henry County Cancer Golf Committee, Olde Glory Days Finance Committee and church pastor selection and finance committees. He has served as president of Windsor Jaycees, Lions Club, Odd Fellows, WHS Master Scholarship Endowment Fund and Chamber of Commerce as well as the Clinton Chamber of Commerce and Optimist Club. He is past president of the Martin Warren Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution and the Executive Vice President of the Missouri Society, Sons of the American Revolution. Gene is married to Marilynn Taylor Henry, who is very active in the Henry County Chapter, NSDAR, and is a past State Registrar for the MSSDAR. They have three daughters, Becky (Jason), Jana (Mark) and Susanna (Jeremy), and six grandchildren, one of whom is attending the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. He believes that he was very blessed to have served our country in the military and continues to serve his community.