

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution

Proudly Honors

Patriot of the Month

November 2023



Terry Zuber

United States Air Force

Sponsored by:

Mary Hempstead Lisa Chapter, NSDAR

Major Terri Zuber (Ret) was born in Detroit, Michigan. Her parents are Debbie & John Thompson and Alan & Judy Fisher and she has 5 siblings. She graduated from Smithton Valley High School in Spring Branch, Texas and earned a bachelor's degree from Wayland Baptist University in Plainview, TX, majoring in Occupational Education. She also has a master's degree in human resources from Webster University in St. Louis, MO.



Major Zuber enlisted in the Air Force immediately after high school in 1994 because she wanted to take advantage of the educational benefits to pay for college. As an enlisted person, she worked in the field of Communications. She was then selected to become an officer and worked in Personnel. She served on Active Duty for 22 years and retired in 2016. Her assignments were extremely varied in the type of work that she did. In her military career, she was always willing to try and learn new things, often taking on extra duties outside of the scope of her job. In addition to serving in Afghanistan and Bosnia, her duty assignments included: Lackland AFB, TX, Vandenberg AFB, CA, RAF Mildenhall, UK, Kirtland Air Force Base, NM, Maxwell AFB, AL, Dyess AFB, TX, St. Louis MEPS, Kunsan AB, Korea, and Scott AFB, IL.

Although retired from Active Duty, Major Zuber is still involved in the military community as a Junior ROTC Instructor at Marquette High School. She teaches leadership, life skills, communication, personality assessment, and finance. In addition, she encourages and participates with the JROTC students in community service, good citizenship and wearing of the uniform to promote professionalism. She was honored by being named the JROTC Instructor of the Year in 2020, 2021 and 2022.

Major Zuber is highly decorated with medals and awards from her time in the Air Force: Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal with 4 oak leaf clusters, Joint Service Achievement Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Air Force Achievement Medal, Meritorious Unit Award, Air Force Outstanding Unit award with 4 oak leaf clusters, Air Force Organizational Excellence Award, National Defense Service medal with 1 service star, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Korean Defense Service, and the Armed Forces Service Medal.

In addition, other achievements are John L. Levitow Award, Airman Leadership School, Space & Missile Systems Center 1 Outstanding Airman of the Year (NCO), 7th Bomb Wing Personnel Manager of the Year, U.S. MEPS Command Western Sector Officer of the Year, USAF Exceptional Sexual Assault Response Coordinator of the Year, and HQ AMC Personnel Company Grade Officer of the Year.

The most interesting things for her while in the service were the opportunities to visit different places and meet people from different countries and cultures who valued the American military being in their country for support. On Military Appreciation Day in Korea, she spent an evening at a Buddhist Temple and conversed with government officials. The best advice she received when in the military was: always be open to development, constantly learning and growing, and that change is constant.

Outside of her military work, Major Zuber is a board member for the St. Louis Orienteering Club which helps people and the JROTC Cadets learn critical thinking and problem solving. Other skills learned in orienteering are understanding terrain, navigation, map reading and survival skills. In addition, she is active in her church, leading a women's Bible study and serving on committees.

Major Zuber's family consists of her husband and 2 children: a sophomore at UMKC and a senior at Parkway Central High School. Her husband teaches work force programs at St. Louis Community College.