

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution

Proudly Honors

Patriot of the Month

January 2024



Danny L. Eaton

United States Army

Sponsored by:

Elizabeth Carey Chapter, NSDAR

Danny Eaton was drafted into service on January 27, 1970. He was 19th on the draft list before numbers were drawn moving him up to 1st. He took his basic training at Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri. After basic training he took On the Job Training at Ft. Riley, Kansas with the 1st Infantry Division where he completed tanker training. On his first tanker maneuvers they were all lined up side by side going through a field of sunflowers when they came to a trench approximately twenty feet wide and eight foot deep. Luckily the tankers saw it at the last minute and they all got stopped in time. Another time on maneuvers they came upon a rock wall lined with hedge trees that they had to go over. They had to be careful going over the wall not to lose the tracks on the tankers. One guy had the main 188 millimeter gun in the turret aimed sideways instead of forward as he went over the wall. The turret hit the tree and spun it to the back as he went through the tree line. The tanker Danny drove was a modified M60 A1. At the completion of O.J.T. the unit received their papers to go to Vietnam by way of Ft. Lewis, Washington. When they got to Ft. Lewis they got word the army's quota for tankers was full so they were being sent to Germany instead. One of his most vivid memories is that fifty-five of the fifty-six men went to Germany; but one man volunteered to go to Vietnam instead. Why? He had been served divorce papers while home on three weeks leave before going to Ft. Lewis.



Transportation to Germany was a thirteen hour flight on a military plane sitting in a webbed seat. He was stationed in Illsheim, Germany serving with the 1st Armored Division for ten months where he drove a tank and was gunner on a tank. Life expectancy for soldiers serving there was 13 minutes due to the location being only about 90 kilometers from the Russian border. Storck Barracks has been a major Army garrison for over seventy years as a key NATO post in the defense of Eastern Europe during the Cold War and today as part of the continuing U.S. Army Europe Mission. He served in Germany until his service time was completed and he was sent back to the states on a commercial flight. While in Germany he completed N.C.O.S. (Non-Commissioned Officer School). He earned the following medals: First in Maneuvers, Marksman for Pistol, Marksman for Rifle and Marksman for Tank. While he was in Germany he did see a few castles, but he spent most of his free time on the base. He brought home two tapestries as souvenirs - one of The Last Supper and the other of mountain goats. Thank you for your service Danny!