

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution

Proudly Honors

Patriot of the Month

January 2024



Larry Mallory

United States Army

Sponsored by:
Prairie Chapter, NSDAR

In 1964, Larry Mallory was 18 years old and living in Beaver Creek, Illinois where he had just graduated high school. He was working part-time at a missile tool and die shop and attending auto mechanic school when he was drafted into the United States Army in 1965.



Basic training was in Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri where he trained in telecommunications including climbing telephone poles. He remembers a day in basic training when the company was practicing with live grenades. Larry was five feet away from a fellow soldier who pulled the pin and dropped the grenade. Fortunately, a quick-thinking sergeant grabbed the grenade and threw it where it exploded in mid-air.

Larry completed his training and after a thirty-day leave, was deployed to Vietnam. Living in tents, he was stationed in Cam Ranh Bay where he worked in field communications troubleshooting telephone lines. He states the Vietnamese would steal the telephone wire for clotheslines. It was here where he used his training of climbing telephone poles and getting down really fast due to snipers! His work often required him to splice different colors of wire together and although partially color blind, he excelled at his job and soon worked wherever the battalion was stationed. He and his crew also did the wiring for the PA system for an upcoming Bob Hope Show but then was unable to attend the show due to a change in orders.

On many occasions, he had to go to the foot of a runway to check the switchboard to see if any telephone lines were out. It was here he came into contact with Agent Orange.

He has several memories of his time in Vietnam including monks burning themselves alive in protest of the war. He adds that he did a lot of growing up in the military noting he was the shyest person in the class in high school. It wasn't until he was put in charge that he overcame his shyness and stuttering. His wife said he proved that he could do things right.

Upon his return to the United States, Larry was stationed at Fort Riley, Kansas where he was promoted to Sergeant. He was in charge of a drill unit that participated in a parade every day. He was the acting company commander and is proud of his second-place prize for drill formation. He was often in charge of company quarters at night as well.

Larry was honorably discharged in 1967 having earned the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, and Marksman (Rifle). His best piece of advice in the military – never volunteer!

He served as pastor at a local church for a year and a half before returning to school. He graduated from Clearcreek Bible College with a degree in Theology and served as a full-time pastor while working a full-time job for 40 years. During this time he also married and had two sons. He lost his wife to cancer after 40 years of marriage.

He and his wife Judy have been married almost ten years. Their blended family includes 5 children, 16 grandchildren, and 8 great grandchildren with another one on the way.

He serves as a Deacon at the First Baptist Church of Lee's Summit.

