

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution

Proudly Honors

Patriot of the Month

January 2024



Drew Risley

United States Navy

Sponsored by:
Saint Charles Chapter, NSDAR

Drew Risley grew up in Washington, MO. After high school, he followed in his grandfather's steps and joined the United States Navy. His grandfather is retired from the US Navy. He graduated from Basic Training at Great Lakes, IL. He also attended Master at Arms A-School at Lackland Air Force Base and while there, he was selected for and graduated from the Military Working Dog (MWD) Handler's course in April 2011. After graduation, he was stationed at Naval Air Station, Jacksonville (NAS JAX), FL. While stationed there, he met his first MWD Brix, who was a large part of his career. He feels that Brix taught him more than he taught Brix. MWD Brix had multiple deployments with other handlers and had had his fair share of experiences. When he retired, Mr. Risley adopted him, where Brix lived out the rest of his life with in the Risley family home. In October, 2012, he was deployed to Jalalabad, Afghanistan with MWD Doly (Patrol/Narcotics MWD). Together, they completed health and well-being missions in Afghanistan in the Nangarhar province. After his deployment, Mr. Risley was certified with MWD Benny, who was an explosive detection MWD. Together, they conducted explosive sweeps around the base and completed a presidential mission in Trinidad and Tobago for the Vice-President of the United States. Mr. Risley was then transferred to Naval Support Activity, Bahrain (NSA Bahrain). While stationed there, he met his first green dog MWD Pali and to experience training a MWD from the ground up. Together, they conducted vehicle sweeps at the gates and piers to all Navy vessels and building searches for explosives. MWD Pali was then given to another handler, and Mr. Risley assumed the position as an MWD Trainer. He was responsible for approximately 20 MWD's and Handler's Training and certifications. After separating from the Navy in July 2014, he again followed his grandfather's footsteps and attended the police academy. After the academy, he worked as a government contractor in Kabul, Afghanistan, where he handled an explosive detection working dog named Helmut for ten months. Upon returning home, he was hired by Chesterfield Police Department and he worked there for three years before being hired by O'Fallon PD where he is now a K9 officer with K9 Rogue.

