

# Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution

Proudly Honors

Patriot of the Month

March 2024



## Charles C. Beierwaltes

United States Army

Sponsored by:

Louisiana Purchase Chapter, NSDAR

Charles Clarence Beierwaltes enlisted in the United States Army on April 9, 1953. His brother was in the Korean War, and he knew how much his mother worried about his safety. Because he was on the list to be drafted, he enlisted with the Army and requested to be in the U.S. Army Band.



He was then assigned to the 31<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division Band at Camp Atterbury, Indiana. “Although I enjoyed playing music, basic training was disturbing as we were brain washed to hate the Koreans.” And he concluded with, “I was raised in a faith-filled family, and this was difficult for me.”

From there Chuck was sent to Frankfurt, Germany to perform in the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Band as a drummer. A musician in the Army is an opportunity to work for the largest employer of musicians in the world. Whether it’s a ceremonial performance or a concert to boost the morale of Soldiers, U.S. Army Band members could serve their country while making music.

One interesting thing happened at Camp Atterbury, Indiana. “We were ordered to go to the General’s lawn on a Sunday morning. This involved 100 Bandsmen, instruments, chairs, and equipment. Not knowing why we were performing, we were surprised to be the entertainment for the General’s wife’s dog’s birthday party.”

Corporal Charles Beierwaltes was honorably discharged on January 20, 1956. He received a Korean War Emblem and said the best advice he received in the service was discipline and respect for our country. He is in total thanks for the United States of America.

He was brought up in Chicago, Illinois in a large, loving faith-filled middle class family during World War II and the Korean War. After working for Illinois Bell Telephone company for several years, he enrolled in the seminary to be a Roman Catholic priest in 1959. Following his studies, he was ordained as a priest in 1967. His first assignment was a pastor in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He gleamed talking about building doll houses for raffles to send underprivileged youth to the youth gathering for a Papal visit.

He has served the church as Pastor, Youth Minister, and Administrator until his recent retirement. At the age of 90, he resides at St Clements Health Care Center in Liguori, Missouri and is active in his community, including playing drums at events, and visiting friends in the area.

The Daughters of the Louisiana Purchase Chapter, NSDAR, are proud to nominate Charles Clarence Beierwaltes as Patriot of the Month and extend their gratitude for his patriotic service and commitment to our great nation.