

# Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution

Proudly Honors

Patriot of the Month

March 2024



## Curtis R. Melloway

### United States Army

Sponsored by:

Jane Randolph Jefferson Chapter, NSDAR

Curt enlisted in the Army in January 2002. He completed his basic training at Fort Benning, Georgia. From there he was stationed at Camp Casey, South Korea, then shipped to Iraq from the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division, Fort Drum, New York.



Curt served in Fallujah, Iraq from September 3, 2004, to September 11, 2005, as an Infantryman. He was a fire team leader and gunner. Within a week after Curt's arrival the Humvee he was riding in was hit by an IED. One of his fellow infantrymen was severely injured and had to have numerous reconstructive surgeries. Following that, two U.S. helicopters were shot down and Curt's unit had to secure the crash site. The helicopters were full of U.S. soldiers going for R&R. There were no survivors. Curt's unit had to find and secure all body parts, belongings, etc. for removal. Curt later found out that two of the deceased reported to his brother Chris who was stationed in Mosul, Iraq at the time.

Curt's tour of duty was supposed to be for six months but following a skirmish on Halloween night, his unit was told that their tour was extended to a year.

Bathing consisted of baby wipes and streams that weren't too gross. It was almost five months before he got a real shower from water in tanks from a river. For eight months Curt washed his clothes in rivers and streams before his clothes were actually laundered.

#### AWARDS:

- Army Achievement Medal
- National Defense Service Medal
- Korea Defense Service Medal
- Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal
- Global War on Terrorism Service Medal
- Army Service Ribbon
- Overseas Service Ribbon
- Marksman Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar

- Marksman Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Grenade Bar
- Combat Infantryman Badge
- Army Lapel Button

One of the most interesting things for Curt was his attendance at Air Assault School. He learned to repel out of a helicopter and how to strap down equipment; i.e., Humvees, water tanks, and field artillery pieces, so they could be airlifted by helicopters.

Curt received two pieces of memorable advice. One friend told him that as far as basic training, "don't be the best and don't be the worst. Stay in the middle and don't stand out." The other was "change the spark plug in you're ass, drive on, and keep your head down."

A couple of exciting events that occurred for Curt and his unit was when they appeared on The Regis and Kathie Lee Show to attend the wedding of a member of his unit. It was the soldier who was severely wounded in the IED attack. The soldier's girlfriend entered a contest to have their wedding on the show and won so the entire unit got to be on the show. His unit also appeared at halftime for an Army-Navy football game.

Since his discharge from the army Curt has been employed as a welder, he then obtained his CDL and was a deliveryman for Central Dairy for several years, following that he went to work for Republic Services where he has been employed the last 18 years and is currently a Route Supervisor.

Curt is married and has 2 sons, a daughter and a step-daughter.