

# Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution

Proudly Honors

Patriot of the Month

March 2024



## David F. Schmitt

### United States Air Force

Sponsored by:  
Saint Charles Chapter, NSDAR

Lt. Col. Schmitt entered the Air Force through the Reserve Officers Training Corps upon graduation from the University of Alabama, 15 August 1976.

He came on active duty on 9 March 1977 reporting to Aircraft Maintenance Officer school at Chanute AFB IL.

His Dad inspired him to join the Air Force as he had been an Army Infantry Captain in WWII. He gave the strongest advice to go into the Air Force. Vietnam was still going on in 1972 when Lt Col Schmitt entered ROTC.

His most memorable assignments were building two new aircraft maintenance squadrons from scratch. They were both new missions created out of Headquarters Air Mobility Command. The first in Combat Rescue at Patrick AFB in Satellite Beach Florida supporting the NASA Space Shuttle missions and supporting Operation Southern Watch in Saudi Arabia, the defense of the no-fly zone in Southern Iraq. The second squadron command was an aircraft maintenance squadron at Travis AFB CA supporting worldwide operational deployments to include the beginning of the Bosnia Serbia Kosovo War.

The last memorable assignment was maintaining seven special mission Weather C-135 aircraft. This was a worldwide nuclear particulate collection platform that collected particulate of Russia and Chinese nuclear ground testing. They also filmed Russian and Chinese ICBMs as they re-entered the designated sites in the Pacific Ocean.

After retirement, Lt. Col. Schmitt worked another twenty years for the Air Force at Headquarters Air Mobility Command at Scott AFB IL until finally retiring in October 2021.

