

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution

Proudly Honors

Patriot of the Month

April 2024



John Steven Brayley

United States Army

Sponsored by:
Gilead Rupe Chapter, NSDAR

John Steven Brayley was born May 28, 1948 in Independence, Mo., his family later moving to Odessa. In 1968, our troops were being sent to fight a war in Vietnam. Like most young men 17 or 18 years old, he was closely monitoring the draft numbers for Lafayette County, hoping he wouldn't be called up next. He would find out they were just taking 1 from his county that day, next day 1, then next day 10. He was one of the 10.



So before long he was on his way to Fort Leonard Wood for Basic Training, and from there to Fort Polk, Louisiana for AIT. As an Infantry Individual Fire Crewman working with 81 millimeter mortars, he soon found himself heading to Vietnam. Stationed in Chu Lai, he became an ammo barerer, then a gunner. He was in Fire Direction Control, which involved calculating and coordinating exactly where the mortars were to be targeted, a very crucial and specialized responsibility.

When he was asked what was the best piece of advice he received he said, " Upon arriving in Vietnam, our instructor told our group, "You have just completed 17 weeks of our Country's finest training. Forget all that. The best thing you can do is find the guy who has been here 8 months and do just like he does to stay alive. So I did." Of the original 10 that went in with him, they did all come home alive.

Upon receiving his discharge, he returned home to Odessa. He soon happened upon an ad in the local newspaper asking for applicants for an apprenticeship in construction. He was given that chance at apprenticeship, which also involved sheet metal work, a trade he would continue for 32 years.

Steve now lives in Independence with his wife Terry. He has one daughter Dena, living in Wentzville and they have a son John living in Olathe. They also have 5 grandchildren. He likes race cars and did enjoy racing his Nissan 370 Z.

For Steve's service he was awarded a Bronze Star, Combat Infantry Badge, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal and 2 O/S Bars.

The Gilead Rupe Chapter is proud to recommend Steven Brayley for the DAR Patriot of the Month Award.

