

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution

Proudly Honors

Patriot of the Month

April 2024



Larry Cunningham

United States Army

Sponsored by:
Neosho Chapter, NSDAR

Larry Cunningham was halfway through his college education when he chose to join the Army in 1968. It was during Vietnam that Larry learned his lottery number was about to be called, so he made the decision to enlist rather than being drafted.



After enlisting Larry did his basic training at Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri then onto Fort Lee in Virginia for additional training before a brief break home. After training Larry was stationed in Pirmasens Germany, there he worked in supply and accounting. Although this position is not glamorous or dangerous it was a very important position all the same because after World War II America maintained a strong presence in Germany. Larry held an important role in making sure our soldiers had the necessary supplies to get their jobs done and done well.

During Larry's service in Germany, he was able to see different countries in Europe on his days of leave. He stated he had many memories of traveling around to different countries but the most interesting by far was seeing tunnels that were dug during World War II. The tunnels were big enough to drive military cargo trucks aka a Duce and a half through. Had the war not ended when it did Germany may very well have got the upper hand with the tunnels that would have spidered all over Europe if completed.

Larry was glad he served. He gives the advice to young men and women to join any branch of the military, serve your country and as a benefit for doing so get your education paid for through the military.

After serving in Germany for 3 years Larry came home to Fort Dix in New Jersey where he received his honorable discharge. Larry returned home to Missouri and finished his college education to become a certified teacher. During Larry's teaching career he taught grades kindergarten through high school. He taught Drivers Education, Health, PE along with coaching baseball, softball, basketball, track, and cross country. He completed his career in 2013 as the Diamond, Missouri Athletic Director.

Larry is a husband, a father to one son and a grandfather to two girls. Larry is committed to helping in his community by being a member of Faith Assembly of God in Joplin, the Missouri Retired Teachers Association, and the local Lions Club.