

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution

Proudly Honors

Patriot of the Month

April 2024



David L. Hosenfelt

United States Army

Sponsored by:

Jane Randolph Jefferson Chapter, NSDAR

David was a young man of 19 years of age, living on a farm in Calwood in Callaway County Missouri, when he was drafted by the United States Army in March of 1968.

He reported to Fort Leonard Wood for his two months of basic training. While there, David was questioned about his favorite hobbies, and he sure wished he hadn't said HUNTING as his favorite pastime. That answer led to being on ground in Vietnam.



In June 1968, he then was sent to Fort Polk in Louisiana for Jungle Warfare-Advanced Individual Training for two months. While there one of the memorable tactics was the war games. Soldiers were sent out in teams of three to either hide or track down the other team. David and his group were each given half of a raw chicken and some rice that they would have to cook and survive on while trying not to get caught by the enemy teams.

After his individualized training was completed, he was sent home to visit his family in Calwood before his departure to California to be sent overseas. David said he went to a local bar to have a drink, with some friends, the night before he was to leave home, and they wouldn't serve him because he was underage.

In August 1968 his family drove him to St Louis airport to board a airplane to take to Oakland Air Force Base in California. He had a 22-hourflight from California to Anchorage Alaska to Japan then to Tay Ninh Army Base in Vietnam.

Once there in Vietnam, the soldiers were placed on buses that had the windows all covered with wire to keep the enemy from throwing grenades through the windows. They were taken for around 6 days of processing. Vaccines and duty assignments.

David was classified as a Private First Class- Light Weapons Infantry B-10 assigned to the 25th Division of the 4th of the 9th Battalion Regiment.

From there, his transport to the jungle was either by helicopter or walking.

One of the most traumatic events was on the day before Thanksgiving 1968. David and fellow soldiers were being transported by helicopter when all hell broke out. They were getting closer to being dropped off and were standing to jump but were shot while they were still in the helicopter and knocked down to earth by the force of the bullets entering their bodies. David was hit by a 51- caliber shell that took out a huge part of his right inner thigh. His fellow soldier, Jim, had his arm severely injured with parts of it hitting David in the head on the way down to the ground. Even though David had severe wounds he tended to his fellow soldier. He took off his belt to secure the bleeding of what was left of his arm and saved Jim's life. They could not call for help as the enemy was all around. They laid in the tall buffalo grass for 18 hours, to conceal themselves until they could be found. One soldier went off to get help, but they never heard from him again. David said he had his rifle setting on top of him just in case. The next day, Thanksgiving, Army Personnel Tanks came through to pick up our American dead and wounded soldiers and found David and Jim still alive.

David and Jim were transported to separate hospitals. David was transported to Tay Ninh hospital to get patched up then sent to another hospital. He spent 3 months, In Country, recovering in hospitals then was sent back to active duty in Vietnam.

His Sargent saw that David could barely walk so he stationed him to guard the Ammo Dump until he finished his tour of duty.

David's Medals, Awards and Certificates of Honor:

- National Defense Service Medal
- Vietnam Service Medal with 4 Bronze Service Stars Combat Infantryman Badge
- Purple Heart
- Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal Sharpshooter (Rifle)
- Sharpshooter (M-60 MG)
- Proclamation from Mayor Leroy Benton of Fulton, MO on 11/23/2018
- Gov Michael Parsons Governor Proclamation and Exercise Tiger Foundation on 10/21/2019
- The Vietnam War Services Citation/ James H Wakeman Award from US Exercise Foundation on 11/15/2019
- The Vietnam War Services Citation / James H Wakeman Award from US Exercise Foundation on 05/13/2023

What stands out to David during his tour in Vietnam was how impoverished and uncivilized the South Vietnam people were that lived there. They had very little to survive on.

His best advice, while there in Vietnam, was listen to the guys that have been there and done that. He said some of the newer recruits came out a little too cocky. You need to trust the soldier to your right and the soldier to your left for survival.

David said he was glad to get home and get back to a normal life in Missouri. Though the trauma and ghosts from what he went through are always there in his mind.

David worked for the Missouri Department of Transportation, for 27 years, after he returned from Military Service. He was promoted to Supervisor and remained in that position until he retired. He maintained his farming heritage and continues to farm in Calwood.

David attends the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Fulton. He also belongs to Fulton Veterans of Foreign Wars and Disabled American Veterans Organizations.

Before he was sent to Vietnam, he had met the love of his life. David and Judy have been married 53 years. They are very proud of their two sons, wives and four grandchildren.

Submitted and honored to do so by Brenda Kuensting-Jane Randolph Jefferson Chapter, NSDAR.