

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution

Proudly Honors

Patriot of the Month

April 2024



Robert Murphy

United States Army

Sponsored by:
Saint Charles Chapter, NSDAR

In 1966, at the age of 22, Robert enlisted in the Army after dropping out of college because he knew if he didn't enlist, he would be drafted due to the active Vietnam War. He did his basic training at Ft. Leonard Wood, MO assigned to the Infantry. Upon completion of Basic Training, he was assigned to Advanced Infantry Training at Ft Ord, CA. In September, 1966, he was accepted into Officer Candidate School in Ft. Benning, GA, where he graduated in March 1967 as a 2nd Lt. Infantry. He was assigned as an Infantry Platoon Leader at Ft. Campbell, KY, then soon after assigned to Vietnam.



He served in Vietnam from Oct. 1967 to August 1968 as an Infantry Officer and was promoted to 1st Lt. he served as the Executive Officer of a 250- man company in Headquarters and Headquarters Company at the 1st Aviation Brigade. Their Headquarters provided Infantry Squad Security for pilots and Aircraft which was helicopters and planes.

Lt. Murphy participated in the Tet Offensive, mini Tet Offensive and five campaigns (each campaign was a major battle). He was responsible for security which was defending the base camp on the East portion of the perimeter which was the jungle side during the Tet Offensive.

The Tet Offensive was planned by Ho Chi Minh (North Vietnam President), and executed by the North Vietnamese Army and Viet Cong with simultaneous attacks by 85,000 North Vietnamese troops on every major city and every military installation in South Vietnam. The deadliest day of the Vietnam War was January 31, 1968, the start of the Tet Offensive. It is believed that the Tet Offensive started the beginning of the end of the Vietnam war as the American morale changed because of the amount of casualties.

Country-wide, the enemy Viet Cong infiltrated friendly villages, put fighting bunkers in some of the houses, tunnels under the floors, the enemy also put viperous snakes in some of the tunnels so our military would be bitten if they tried to enter the tunnels. U.S. Military realized the Viet Cong infiltration and protracted battles continued in effort to clean out the infiltration with search and destroy missions.

Lt. Murphy finished out his military service at Ft Leonard Wood, MO as the Assistant Operations officer of the Army Reception Station for new recruits. When his term of service was over, he declined a promotion to Captain as his wife was pregnant and acceptance of a promotion would have further obligated him to active service which would probably have separated him from his wife and new baby and returned him to Vietnam.

While serving, he earned the following Awards and Decorations: The Bronze Star for Meritorious Service Medal (10th highest Medal awarded for Meritorious Service/Valor in the U.S. Military); National Defense Medal; Vietnam Service Ribbon with four bronze stars, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry Medal, Air Assault Badge and Combat Infantry Badge.

His best advice:

1. Your word is your bond.
2. Complete your mission
3. Look out for the welfare of your people
4. One day at a time

When he left the service, Lt. Murphy went on to have a career in transportation. He received his degree in Business Management, was a Special Agent for Eastern Central Motor Carriers Association and VP of American Trucking.

He is now retired, a Lifetime member (56 years) of the VFW; Past Post Commander 2866; Life time Member of the VFW Cooties (an Honor Society of the VFW); serves as the Post Veteran Service Officer at VFW2866, has 55 years of membership with the American Legion; and 40-year Lifetime Member of Disabled American Veterans.

He and his wife Marcia have 5 children, 15 grandchildren, two great grandchildren and reside in St. Charles, MO.