

# Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution

## Proudly Honors

### Patriot of the Month

May 2024



## Emas P. Griffin, Jr.

### United States Army

Sponsored by:  
O'Fallon Chapter, NSDAR

U.S. Army Retired, Sergeant Major (SGM (R)) Emas P. Griffin, Jr. was born and raised in St. Louis, MO. Before graduating from Halter High school in 1976, SGM (R) Griffin worked numerous jobs from dishwasher, parking valet, pasta and sauté cook which led him to becoming a chef at a local café.



SGM (R) Griffin's sister and brother-in-law were in the Army and his brother was an Army Recruiter, SGM (R) Griffin's mother insisted that he also join the Army. After his mom passed away, Griffin enlisted. He qualified to be an Army Pilot after taking the military entrance exam, however, he chose to enlist as a Combat Medic. He attended U.S. Army Basic Training at Ft. Leonard Wood, MO followed by Combat Medic Advanced Individual Training (AIT) at Ft. Sam Houston, TX. SGM (R) Griffin's first duty assignment was with 2nd/502nd Infantry Battalion in the 101st Airborne Division at Ft. Campbell, KY

SGM (R) Griffin's active duty service from 1980-1995 also included assignments in Germany and 1st Infantry Division in Ft. Riley, KS where he deployed to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Iraq in support of Operation Desert Storm and Desert Shield.

While visiting home on leave in 1981, Griffin was at his in-laws home during a storm when down the street a St. Louis Police Officer was electrocuted by downed power lines. SGM (R) Griffin's medical training proved itself as without hesitation rushed to help ultimately saved the police officer's life. For his heroic deed, Griffin was awarded an Army Commendation.

From 1996-2004, SGM (R) Griffin served in the Active Reserves where he enrolled at St. Louis Community College at Forest Park as a nursing student. During this time, he worked as a Patient Care Technician at Barnes Jewish Hospital. One of Griffin's patients was legendary sports announcer Jack Buck, whom he cared for until he passed away. With Mrs. Buck's recommendation, SGM (R) Griffin started his own private duty care business where he was responsible for providing private duty nurse care to numerous clients throughout the greater St. Louis communities.

SGM (R) Griffin returned to the Active Army in 2004 serving in numerous leadership positions and finally as the Senior Enlisted Advisor, Human Resources Command Center of Excellence at Ft. Knox, KY. He retired in 2012.

SGM (R) Griffin's Military schooling includes: Sergeants Major Course, Advanced Non Commissioned Officers Course, Basic Non Commissioned Officers Course, Primary Leadership Course, Air Assault School, Basic Medical Specialist Course, Army Drug and Alcohol Program Course (ADAPC), NCO Refresher Course, Weaponeer Course, and Power Generator Course. Griffin's awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (1 OLC), Army Commendation Medal (Silver Oak Leaf Cluster), Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal (3 Oak Leaf Clusters), the Army Good Conduct Medal, Reserve Components Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal (2), Southwest Asia Service Medal, Global War on Terror Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, NCO Professional Development (Numerical 4 device) Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, Kuwait Liberation Medal (Saudi Arabia), Kuwait Liberation Medal, Air Assault Badge, and the Combat Medical Badge.

Prior to retiring, he was awarded the Order of Military Medical Merit (O2M3). The O2M3 is awarded to a select few Army Medical Department members who display distinguished service, the highest standards of integrity and moral character, an outstanding degree of professional competence, selfless, and have made a sustained contribution to the betterment of Army medicine. Griffin was awarded numerous Letters of Commendation, Certificates of Achievement, Trophies, and Plaques for being named Soldier of the Month, Soldier of the Quarter, NCO of the Year and for his volunteer work with the Exceptional Family Members Program for Students with Special Needs, and Supernumerary on guard mount.

After retiring from the Army, SGM (R) Griffin began working as the Army Instructor activating Danville High School's Army JROTC program in Danville, Illinois. In 2015, he returned home to North County St. Louis where is still serving as the Army Instructor at McCluer High School's Army JROTC Department.

In addition to being an Army JROTC Instructor, he served as Pastor, Ecclesia Christ Church from 2015-2020. He is a lifetime member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and a member of National Education Association.

SGM (R) Griffin and his wife, Thelma, are the parents of five adult children, 15 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. His main hobby is his love for classic American cars especially the two that he owns, a 1969 Cadillac Fleetwood Brougham 60's Special and a 1971 Pontiac LeMans Sport 400.

Griffin actively supports the Daughters of the American Revolution, providing Army JROTC Cadets as Color Guard from McCluer High School for the O'Fallon Chapter Annual Awards Brunch. His JROTC Cadets will be Honor Guard for the National Defense Luncheon at the annual Missouri DAR State Conference this April.

The O'Fallon Daughters are proud to honor and recognize SGM (R) Emas P. Griffin, Jr., as Patriot of the Month for his dedication and patriotic service to the community and our nation.