

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution

Proudly Honors

Patriot of the Month

May 2024



Drew Wheatley

United States Air Force

Sponsored by:
Sainte Genevieve Settlement Chapter, NSDAR

Drew Wheatley was raised in Elvins, Missouri, the youngest of six brothers. He comes from a military family where his father and two uncles served during World War II. Four of his brothers also served in the Air Force and one served in the Army. Drew enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in St. Louis, Missouri on September 29, 1972 and was in the Air Force and/or Air Force Reserves for 23 years.



Drew served at Davis Monthan Air Force Base in Tucson, AZ, Sheppard Air Force Base in Texas, Homestead Air Force Base in Florida, Kunsan Air Base in Korea, Torrejon Air Base in Spain, Osan Air Base in Korea, and Elgin Air Force in Florida. He retired on September 30, 1995 as a Senior Master Sergeant. Traveling while on leave became a passion as he was able to visit 117 countries. There were more but doesn't count them as the countries no longer exist. He spent two weeks on a bicycle traveling the Great Wall of China. When he and his companions left, they donated their bikes to the local fire department and all but two sets of their clothes to the local orphanage so they could make clothes for the children there.

During his military service, Drew spent one-half of his career as a Crew Chief on fighter jets and the other half in training. While in Spain, he was a Detachment Superintendent and had 29 instructors report to him.

His personal awards include the Meritorious Service Medal (2 Awards), Air Force Commendation Medal (4 awards), Air Force Achievement Medal (4 awards), Humanitarian Medal (2 Awards), and various other awards.

When asked for the best piece of advise he received, Drew states "If you ever want to be a good writer you have to be a good reader". His supervisor sent him to "reading school" twice because he didn't like the way he read. This advise has become useful as he assists other veterans with their VA claims.

Though Drew is now retired, his free time is filled with membership in the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans, US Sergeants Association, Air Force

Association and Associate Membership in the Marine Corps League. Drew also serves as a softball pitching coach, volunteers at the State Handicap School and assists veterans process their benefit claims. These claims total 300 to 400 a year.

Drew currently lives in Bonne Terre, Missouri, has two stepchildren and 3 grandchildren.

The Sainte Genevieve Settlement Chapter is honored to recognize this deserving veteran as a Patriot of the Month.