

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution

Proudly Honors

Patriot of the Month

June 2024



Jim McTaggart

United States Army

Sponsored by:
Taneycomo Chapter, NSDAR

Jim McTaggart joined the Army in March 1965 after one semester in college. After basic training and advanced Infantry training, he received orders for Vietnam in March of 1966.

His fiancée, Bobby Sue, was in nursing training in Rockford, IL and they were planning a fall wedding. Realizing the Army had first dibs on him and he was going to war in two weeks, they decided that marriage goes nice with St Patricks' Day. So, on March 17th 1966 they were married and 6 days later Bobbie Sue went back to nursing school and Jim headed for Vietnam.

Jim was assigned to the 25th Infantry Division, in the central highlands of Vietnam at Pleiku. This was very early in the war and they fought the north Vietnamese army who were well trained, led, and equipped. They were a formidable foe.

On Memorial Day weekend of 1966 his unit of 150 men was involved in very heavy engagement with a sizeable enemy force. During this battle in the Ia Drang Valley, Jim was seriously wounded and his unit suffered significant casualties. Jim was medivac'd out. After operations in Vietnam, Jim was taken to the Philippines for additional surgery and recovery. Four weeks later, Jim was brought home to Great Lakes Naval Hospital in Chicago for an additional three months. Upon recovery Jim finished his duties at Fort Lee, VA and was discharged January 22, 1968.

He was awarded the Purple Heart, Combat Infantry Badge, Presidential Unit Citation, Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry, and the normal awards.

Upon discharge, Jim and Bobby Sue, now a registered nurse, set up house in Rockford, IL. Bobby Sue worked while Jim attended Northern Illinois University, graduating in 1971. Their life journey took them from Illinois to Indiana to Ohio and then to Branson, where they have lived for 46 years. Jim's company bought and sold machine tools for industry and he did that for some 40 years,



retiring in 2016. In 2003 Jim and his wife founded and built St Joseph Anglican church in Branson. They retired from the ministry early in 2024.

Jim now serves as the Veterans to Veterans coordinator at Cox Hospital Branson.

Jim and Bobby Sue have a daughter Sara who lives in Branson and owns a local hair salon, and son Josh, who is a retired Coast Guard Commander, has two boys and lives in New Orleans.

