

MISSOURI STATE SOCIETY DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION



Proudly Honors

**PATRIOT OF THE MONTH
SEPTEMBER 2024**



**KATHLEEN JOHNSON
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE**

Sponsored by:

Saint Charles Chapter, NSDAR



After two years of college and then working until she was 25, Kathleen Johnson joined the U.S. Air Force to complete her education. She chose the Air Force because she was dating a Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) Air Force cadet at the time of enlistment. She joined in January of 1982 and completed basic training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. After completing training school at Sheppard Air Force Base, Wichita Falls, Texas, she was stationed at Incirlik Air Force Base, Turkey. She was a Passenger and Household Goods Specialist. She arranged flights for all military leaving the base. A favorite military memory is when she was allowed to sit in the cockpit of a large military transport plane, a C-130. During that time, she was

allowed to participate in the airplane maneuver known as "touch and go" which is the plane touching down on the runway then speeding up and going back up into the air.

After Turkey, she got to pick her base. She picked Washington State because one of her roommates was from there. She was stationed at McChord Air Force Base, Tacoma, Washington, until her discharge in January 1986. While at McChord, she was recognized as Airman of the Month. While in Tacoma, she met her Army husband while attending night school.

During her time in the Air Force, she learned that you can go anywhere and make friends and become part of a group. She remembers that her aunt did not recognize her after she completed her training because of her long hair. She had a drill instructor in basic training that remembered her years later.

Kathy is retired after working in libraries, as a fitness instructor and a swim instructor. While she was a fitness instructor, all knew her voice and called her "drill sergeant." She volunteers at her church and places American flags in her subdivision.

Kathy served in the U.S. Air Force from January 1982 to January 1986, leaving service as a Sergeant (E4).