

MISSOURI STATE SOCIETY DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION



Proudly Honors
PATRIOT OF THE MONTH
SEPTEMBER 2024



COLONEL JENIFER B. ENGLE WARREN, RETIRED
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

Sponsored by:
Louisiana Purchase Chapter, NSDAR



Jenifer B. Engle Warren graduated from St. Pius X High School, Crystal City, Missouri, in May 1990, and Southeast State University, Cape Girardeau, in May 1994. She said, "For as long as I could remember I wanted to fly. When I arrived at college, I took a walk to the ROTC Detachment just to see what the USAF was all about. It changed my life. I found a calling to serve my country and learned lessons about teamwork, leadership, and followership. I figured if I really didn't like the military, I could serve four years and still be proud of my service to my country. However, I truly loved it. Putting on the uniform every day made me know I was doing what I was meant to do. I ended up serving over 25 years."

Commissioned as a 2nd LT in the United States Air Force (USAF) on May 28, 1994, she entered active duty as a 2nd LT at Goodfello, Air Force Base (AFB), San Angelo, Texas. Her duty stations were: Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea; Hickam AFB, Hawaii; Offutt AFB, Nebraska; Nellis AFB, Nevada; Bolling AFB, Washington D.C., (Earned a Master's Degree in Strategic Intelligence from the Joint Military Intelligence College); Offutt AFB, Nebraska; Library of Congress, Washington D.C. (as part of the Air Force Fellowship Program); and Langley AFB, Virginia. Her deployments included Saudi Arabia, Oman, Italy, and Kuwait.

Jenifer was an Intelligence officer in the USAF. She held leadership positions at several levels of command. Leading 40 up to 300 personnel, she was a Flight Commander in Korea, Director of Operations in San Antonio, Director of Intelligence, and Squadron Commander at Offutt AFB in Nebraska. She served in a joint position at the United States Strategic Command, where they tracked ballistic missiles. After graduating from the United States Air Force Weapons School in Las Vegas, Nevada, she became an instructor in Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance. She proudly remarked that she also flew onboard the RC-135 RIVET JOINT aircraft.

Her medals and awards received are numerous: Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, Joint Service Achievement Medal, Achievement Medal, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Meritorious Unit Award, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Valor, Air Force Organizational Excellence Award, National

Defense Service Medal with Star, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Korean Defense Service Medal, Air and Space Campaign Medal, Air and Space Campaign Medal, Air Force Overseas, United Nations Medal, and five Air Force ribbons.

Jenifer deployed right after the attack on September 11, 2001. She was part of an expeditionary unit that was deployed within the first weeks after the attack. They arrived with no infrastructure and had to set up all of their living quarters(tents) workplaces, computer equipment, and establish secure communications. They all lived in a giant warehouse for the first few weeks and ate Meals Ready to Eat (MREs) until the base could set up a dining facility. She remarked, "It was amazing to be called upon to defend our country after the attack. The camaraderie I witnessed was amazing. It was the best feeling to know that my team and I were making a difference. I will cherish this experience all my life."

The best piece of advice that she received is to lead by example and don't try to be anything you're not. People will follow your lead if you follow the same standard you are asking of them, and they will see right through you if you are not true to yourself. Play to your strengths and get help with your weaknesses.



Jenifer emphasized that she would not be here if not for the love and understanding of her family. Her parents pushed her to go to college and were extremely supportive of her decision to go into the military. Her husband of 24 years is also a Retired Air Force Officer, and he supported her every single step of the way. She said, "We made a great team all our years on Active Duty together and I'm so thankful for him. Our three sons, Wm. Reilly, Liam, and Kellan are our most amazing accomplishments, above and beyond any accolade or medal. Their resilience, understanding, and love enabled us to continue to serve."

Retiring as a Colonel on October 1, 2020, she is very proud to be a "Stay At stay-at-home mom." She is busier than she ever was while on Active Duty (so it seems). She is President of the High School Parent Teacher Student Association, a volunteer at the Middle School, and a member of their HOA Social Committee. She was a former member of the Hockey Board and Lacrosse Board for her son's teams. Jenifer has

never been happier, and she is thankful for this wonderful career that led her to retire at her age and live this wonderful life.

Louisiana Purchase Chapter, NSDAR, is proud to nominate Retired Colonel Jenifer B.E. Warren as Patriot of the Month and extends gratitude and thanks for her service and commitment to our country.