

MISSOURI STATE SOCIETY DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Proudly Honors



WALTER SCHLEY
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER (E-5)
1966 – 1969, 2003



as

PURPLE HEART PATRIOT
JANUARY 2025

Honoring his service and Sacrifice

Sponsored by: Little Blue River Chapter, NSDAR



Walter "Walt" Schley served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1966-1969 and in 2003.

On August 31, 1969, after having been in Vietnam for 22 months, Schley had nine days left before he rotated back to the United States. He was serving with Bravo Company, 7th Motor Transport Battalion, 1st Marine Division at Quang Tri Combat Base in the Republic of Vietnam. Schley was the Headquarters Platoon Sergeant, Administration Chief, Headquarters Driver, and 50 caliber machine gunner on gun trucks during convoys.

At about 10 p.m., the base came under heavy enemy mortar and rocket attack. Upon hearing the incoming fire, Schley organized the men under his command to put on their flak jackets and helmets. "I told them to get into the bunkers; as if they did not know already to do that. I went up and down the area turning out lights, which the enemy used as aiming points, and I was just turning off one, with the back of my hand, an enemy rocket exploded about 15 feet from me. I remember the bright flash then nothing. I woke up seeing stars and realized I was pinned under a locker." The attack left Schley with shrapnel in my left arm and buttocks and missing two teeth. Schley was one of 13 wounded Marines and two killed in action that resulted from the attack.

Schley was evacuated to the 3rd Medical Battalion, DongHa Combat Base for treatment of wounds to his left arm and his behind. He was treated and sent back to

his unit the next day. He commented that as he was carried in on a stretcher with only his underwear and covered in blood, he looked up and saw female nurses (we haven't seen women in a long time) my first thought was "I hope I have clean underwear on" ignoring the fact I might lose my arm.

As one of the walking wounded, his arm was bandaged, it took six months for the skin to heal up and with the scar tissue, pieces of his behind had been pulled out which made for sore sitting for a while. Today, a piece of shrapnel remains in his left arm.

Walter Schley left Vietnam on September 10, 1969, and landed at Marine Corps Air Station El Toro, located in El Toro, California.

"I was issued the Purple Heart Medal by my Company Commander, Captain Eckerd, in our company area at QuangTri Combat Base in Vietnam on September 2, 1969."

Along with the Purple Heart Medal, Chief Warrant Officer Schley was awarded numerous medals and commendations during his service, including two Meritorious Service Medals, the Navy Commendation Medal, the Navy Achievement Medal with combat "V", and more. Schley would later go on to serve as a member of the Marine Corps during the Gulf War, Operation Desert Shield, Operation Desert Storm, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Chief Warrant Officer Schley is a member of the Henry Leavenworth Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) Chapter and is also the former Commander of the Department of Missouri, Military Order of the Purple Heart.



Married to his wife, Kathleen, the couple have two children.