

MISSOURI STATE SOCIETY DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Proudly Honors



CLYDE A. VAUGHN
MISSOURI ARMY NATIONAL GUARD
CAPTAIN (O-3)
1940 – 1945, 1948 – 1981



as

PURPLE HEART PATRIOT
JANUARY 2025

*Honoring his service and Sacrifice,
his children, Lieutenant General Clyde A Vaughn, Retired, and Susan Vaughn*
Sponsored by: Jane Randolph Jefferson Chapter, NSDAR



Clyde A. Vaughn, born July 17, 1921, began his career in the Missouri Army National Guard when he enlisted in May 1940 in Company L, 140th Infantry, Dexter, Missouri, as a private with an assignment as a rifleman. Like many of his generation, he did not talk about his wartime experiences, although he shared an accounting of his time in the Missouri Army National Guard from 1940-1945 in his written memoirs given to his family on Christmas Day, 2023.

Vaughn was mobilized in December 1940 and served on Active Duty until June 27, 1945. During World War II, he attained the rank of Platoon Sergeant and fought in Italy as an infantry soldier in Company F, 351st Infantry Regiment, 88th Infantry Division of the Fifth Army. Of note, he fought in three Italian Campaigns, earning three

Bronze Stars for Rome-Arno, North Apennines, and Po Valley, and received the Bronze Star for Valor, Silver Star, and the Purple Heart. Upon receiving the Silver Star, The Fifth Army issued the following News Release:

“Technical Sergeant Clyde A. Vaughn of Dexter, Missouri, recently was awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action with Lieutenant General Mark W. Clark’s Fifth Army in Italy. When his company suffered heavy casualties, among them some of the officers, at the beginning of an assault Vaughn volunteered to lead one platoon on the attack.

When the squad was fired upon by Germans using tracer ammunition, due to poor visibility, Vaughn was able to locate the hostile positions.

He moved ahead, throwing hand grenades, and personally knocked out three machineguns, killed seven Germans, and forced another machinegun crew to surrender. Although he was severely wounded, Vaughn continued to advance, firing a German automatic pistol as he went. He refused medical aid and evacuation as he led his men on until he was finally forced to drop prone due to loss of blood and exhaustion.

Such gallantry and heroism in the face of almost certain death is displayed on by the bravest of soldiers," stated the citation with the award. Vaughn is a member of the 351st Infantry Regiment, 88th Infantry Division "Blue Devils" of the Fifth Army" - *Fifth Army News Release, Nov. 6, 1944.*



Vaughn told his family that after being relieved from his First Sergeant Position, he took the walking wounded and the one German that was captured to the bottom of Mount Battaglia where they found the battalion aid station. After he received first aid treatment, he was evacuated by air to the 5th General Hospital in Rome.



He was awarded the Silver Star and the Purple Heart for his actions during the combat on Mt. Capello in a ceremony at the hospital. The 351st Infantry Regiment received the Presidential Unit Citation as the result of this battle, one of the four bitterest battles of the entire Po Valley Campaign. He was also awarded the Combat Infantry Badge.

Vaughn spent Christmas 1944 in the 5th General Hospital. After he recuperated and was healed, he rejoined Fox Company and resumed his position as Platoon Sergeant of the third platoon. Once the war was declared over on May 5, 1945, he was flown to Rome to attend ceremonies, was issued new uniforms and ribbons, and given leave for a few days. He then flew back to the United States.



1st Sgt. Vaughn on right with a nurse and another soldier.

Once home, Vaughn married Lois M. Launius, in Bloomfield, Missouri, in 1945. They moved to Columbia where he attended the University of Missouri-Columbia. After a couple of years, they returned to Dexter



and the Missouri Army National Guard. During his time in the Guard, he gained a commission, attained the rank of Captain, and retired as a Chief Warrant Officer (CWO-4) in 1981. During his time as a Captain, he commanded Company L, 140th Infantry Regiment, which was the same unit he was mobilized with for WWII in 1940. He was the last living commander of a Dexter infantry unit. His last assignment as a full-time technician for the Missouri Army National Guard was as the Command Administrative Officer for the 1140th Engineer Battalion (Cbt.), Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

At the time of his death in 2015, he was 94 and was just four days short of his 70th wedding anniversary. He and his wife had three sons, one of whom died in infancy, a daughter, two grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, and one great-great-granddaughter, born in 2024. His oldest son, Clyde, followed in his footsteps in serving in the Missouri Army National Guard. He and his wife, Carol, also have a son, Chad, who retired from the U.S. Marine Corps. Chad and his wife, Jenn, have two children; Jeb and Kaylee. His daughter, Kristi, and husband Dr. Robert Meltvedt, have two sons; Drew and Parker, and one granddaughter, Evelyn. Vaughn's youngest son, Tom, resides in New Orleans, and his daughter, Susan, lives in Jefferson City where she is a member of the Jane Randolph Jefferson Chapter, NSDAR.

Clyde Vaughn lived a long life, cherishing family, country, friends, gardening, fishing, and sports. In his earlier years, he served as a scoutmaster, belonged to the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans, and later enjoyed the High-Noon Toastmasters Club in Cape Girardeau. Like all World War II veterans, he served this country with courage, sacrifice, and dedication, without reservation or consideration of any personal consequences. It was only later in life that most of the family members realized the extent of his contributions.