

**MISSOURI STATE SOCIETY
DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION**



Proudly Honors
**PATRIOT OF THE MONTH
APRIL 2025**



DELORES CARLITA GRAHAM MCCREA, RN
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
1962 – 1965
LIEUTENANT

Sponsored by:
O'Fallon Chapter, NSDAR



Delores Carlita Graham McCrea was born and raised in St. Louis, Missouri. She attended St. Louis Public Schools and graduated from Sumner High School. Thereafter, she attended Lincoln College in Jefferson City, Missouri. She acquired her nursing education at Homer G. Phillips Hospital, an African American hospital in St. Louis, Missouri, where she also continued her nursing career.

Remarkably, a recruiter actually came to her home to procure her enlistment. Thereafter, she entered the Air Force as a registered nurse and served from 1962 to 1965, during the Vietnam War era. Because Ms. McCrea was already a registered nurse, she entered the Air Force as a commissioned officer. She first reported to a bivouac at Craig Air Force Base near Selma, Alabama.

Despite having requested a flight nurse assignment, she was assigned to the United States Air Force (USAF) Medical Center at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, as a medical/surgical nurse. She ultimately became a psychiatric nurse at that duty station and remained in Dayton until the completion of her tour of duty. Her work included treatment of many returning Vietnam veterans who were afflicted with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), then commonly diagnosed as combat fatigue or shell shock.

Several years after her honorable discharge, Ms. McCrea and her late husband, a U.S. Army veteran, met and married. Later, she earned a Master's Degree from St. Joseph's College in Maine. She continued her nursing career at John Cochran Veterans Hospital and as a school nurse at a number of St. Louis area schools, while raising her daughter and son. Interestingly, her daughter chose the U.S. Air Force as part of her career

path. Ms. McCrea is a grandmother and great-grandmother several times.

Ms. McCrea attributes part of her inspiration to her former next door neighbor, one of the famed Tuskegee Airmen of World War II. Having retired from nursing a number of years ago, Ms. McCrea remains involved with veterans' organizations such as the American Legion and others. She is the incorporator of Veteran Women of Influence; the mission of that organization is to empower and support women veterans.



Ms. McCrea was instrumental in the creation of a healing and meditation garden across the street from her family home. The garden includes a labyrinth and a little free library. She presently has renovation of that three-story, brick family home in the Vandeventer neighborhood in the City of St. Louis underway; that home had been devastated by a fire. The renovated home will have a new purpose; to assist women veterans in need of housing.

Thank you for your service; both then and now, Ms. McCrea!