

MISSOURI STATE SOCIETY DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION



Proudly Honors

**PATRIOT OF THE MONTH
APRIL 2025**



**LONNIE RAY VETTER
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
OCTOBER 1969 – AUGUST 1973
SERGEANT (E-4)**

Sponsored by:

Ozark Spring Chapter, NSDAR



Lonnie Ray Vetter enlisted in the United States Air Force (USAF) in October 1969, serving his country honorably during the Vietnam Conflict. His seven weeks of basic training was at Lackland Air Force Base (AFB), San Antonio, Texas, and six months of technical training at Lowery AFB, Denver, Colorado, as a Precision Photo Processing Specialist. Other duty stations included Bergstrom AFB, Austin, Texas; Elmendorf AFB, Anchorage, Alaska; and Udorn Royal Thai AB, Udorn, Thailand, where he served in the 432nd Tactical Reconnaissance Wing, a part of Pacific Air Command (PACAF). In his timeoff while at Udorn Royal Thai AB, he taught mathematics in the GED program for airmen, read and prepared for class at the base library, and provided an adult presence at a Thai orphanage of base.

The 432 TRW was composed of personnel and equipment assigned to the collection, processing and interpretation of pre-mission targets and post-mission effectiveness. The squadron's work horse was a modified version of the F-4 Phantom jet. Instead of being ordinance-equipped, the 432 RTS RF-4C Phantom jets were equipped with several cameras that recorded information on 500 foot rolls of 5" film, 1,000 foot rolls of 10" film and 70 mm side-looking radar film. The RF-4C was among several designations indicating various modifications of F-4s. Our laboratory mission was to provide consistently high quality images to our photo interpreters who provided critical information assisting our pilots for mission accomplishments. All lab personnel had top secret security clearances.

Lon held the rank of Sergeant (E4) and was awarded five honors: National Defense Service Medal, AF Good Conduct Medal, AF Outstanding Unit Award, Vietnam Service Medal, and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal while serving in the United States Air Force.

Lon attended Southeast Missouri State University, receiving his BS degree in

Education in 1968. He used the Bootstrap program to attend the University of Missouri and University of Texas while in the military. Upon receiving an Honorable Discharge from the USAF, he used the GI Bill at the University of Missouri Dental School and graduated with a Doctor of Dental Surgery degree in 1977. He retired from practicing dentistry in 2016. He maintained several professional memberships and received several recognitions as well as participating in local organizations.

Lon married Evelyn Allison on June 8, 1968. They have three children and five grandchildren. He enjoys spending time with family along with many outdoor activities.

Ozark Spring Chapter, NSDAR, Daughters are proud and honored to recognize Lonnie Ray Vetter as Patriot of the Month for his patriotism and service to our great nation.