

MISSOURI STATE SOCIETY DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Proudly Honors



PATRICK BOTBYL
UNITED STATES ARMY
SERGEANT (E-5)
SEPTEMBER 1960 – APRIL 1971
WOUNDED IN ACTION



as
PURPLE HEART PATRIOT
MAY 2025

Honoring His Service and Sacrifice

Sponsored by: Alexander Doniphan Chapter, NSDAR



Patrick Botbyl was born July 18, 1951, to Edward and Joan (Wardle) Botbyl. He was the oldest of seven children. It was his responsibility to help with the care of his younger siblings. He also had to help his father work in construction.

Patrick feels that this sense of responsibility, which was instilled in him when he was so young, has followed him into his adult life.

Patrick graduated high school at the age of sixteen. He worked with his dad for a year, and on September 16, 1969, at the age of seventeen, his dad gave his permission for Patrick to join the military. It was important to Patrick that he follow in the footsteps of his family. His dad and his seven uncles had all served in WWII, Korea, and in various other capacities while in the service. He joined the Army because he wanted to keep his feet on the ground. In the Air Force, you are

up in the air. In the Navy, you are in the middle of a bunch of water. He felt the ground suited him just fine.

Patrick went to Basic Training at Fort Benning, Georgia. He was then stationed at Fort Polk, Louisiana, for his Advanced Individual Training (AIT). In February of 1970, he deployed to Vietnam. He served as a clerk in Vietnam for four months then joined the Line Unit. He attained the rank of sergeant and returned to the United States in April 1971.

Patrick's unit was ambushed from the side during a firefight. He was hit along the right side of his body with shrapnel. After he was treated, he was sent back to his unit.

Again, they were ambushed and he was hit in his right arm with shrapnel. He carries this with him today. The doctor told him it would cause too much damage to the muscles if it was removed.

He was awarded the Purple Heart at a ceremony at Base Camp in Vietnam. His medal was then sent to his family in the States.

Besides the Purple Heart, Patrick received a Bronze Star, an Air Medal, a Good Conduct Medal, a National Defense Service Medal, a Vietnam Service Medal, and a Vietnam Campaign Medal.

Patrick spent six years in the service. He spent from September 1969 to April 1971 in Vietnam. When he left Viet Nam he was put on light duty in his home state of New Jersey.

Patrick laughed when he was relating how his family was informed that he had been injured. Two Army Personnel went to his home in New Jersey. When his mother answered the door, the gentleman said, "I'm sorry to inform you,". He got no further because his mother fainted. By this time Patrick's father came to the door and his mother revived. The men said we are sorry. We wanted to inform you that your son has been injured. While Patrick was in the medical tent the Red Cross made it possible for him to speak to his parents and let them know he was okay.

Patrick has many memories of his time in the military. He is grateful to his Captain for requiring responsibility in every aspect of service. He remembers the weather. It is hot in the dry season, and wet in the rainy season. You need to survive the country. It is hard to experience death on the battlefield for the first time. It makes it up close and personal.



When asked what words would you use to express your memories overall. Patrick used the words, pride, gratefulness, and no regrets.

Pride: Having served honorably like my dad and his seven brothers.

Gratefulness: That the Lord permitted me to experience this and slowed me to return home.

No regrets: I would do it all over again. Wouldn't change a thing.

Last question was what words of wisdom do you have for others? Patrick felt everyone graduating from high school should go into some sort of volunteer service before attending college. He felt that it might be the military service or any other service organization.

The last statement Patrick made was, "Vietnam Vets have vowed, that no other generation of veterans will ever go unrecognized."

He served as Vice President of an Insurance Brokerage Firm, Executive Director of Military and Veterans Affairs in New Jersey. This position was appointed by Governor Florio. He has served as the State Commander for the VFW for New Jersey, He left New Jersey to work at the VFW National Headquarters until retiring. Oh, we can't forget that he has also served as Mayor of two different cities.

He makes his home with his wife, Bernadette at Weatherby Lake, Missouri. He is very active in the organizations of this city.