

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

Proudly Honors



**DANIEL MARCEL JOHNNIE
PELTONEN**

**UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
SERGEANT (E-5)**

1966 – 1970

WOUNDED IN ACTION

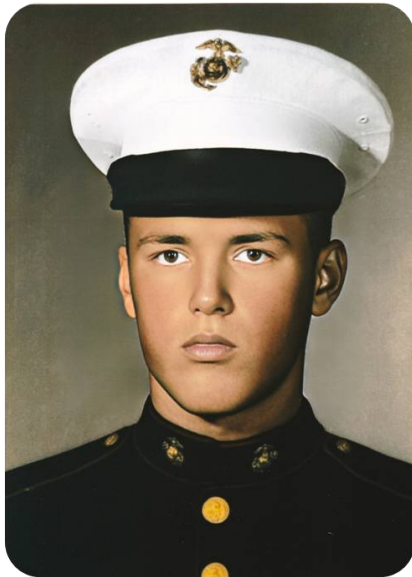
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PURPLE HEART PATRIOT

MAY 2025

Danielle Peltonen Campbell, Honoring Her Father's Service and Sacrifice

Sponsored by: Montgomery Chapter, NSDAR



My dad, Daniel Peltonen, was a highly decorated veteran earning multiple honors during his time of service. These honors include the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal, Rifle Expert Badge, and above all the Purple Heart Medal. He earned the titles of Sergeant, Platoon Leader, and Sniper during his service.

Daniel Peltonen was injured twice during his time in Vietnam earning him two Purple Hearts. It was very rare for my father to speak about his time in Vietnam and while I do not have great details, this is what I can share.

The first of his injuries was by a punji spike, a type of booby-trapped stake made out of wood or bamboo that is sharpened, heated, and set in a hole. This specific punji spike that injured my father went through the side of his foot. He was treated by his corpsman by receiving penicillin, a small dose of morphine, wrapping the injured foot, and then put back on patrol.

The second of his injuries came from white phosphorus burns at Khe Sanh, Vietnam. White phosphorus was used by U.S. forces in Vietnam, specifically in the form of grenades. In 1967 the North Vietnamese Army blew up an ammo dump that my father

was near. My father and three other marines who were burned ran into a bunker and later were evacuated on the next available chopper. He was made to sit on the body bags of the deceased men he was serving with as he was taken out of the jungle.

Although these were the injuries that earned him his Purple Heart, the other injuries he sustained were not as visible. He spent extensive time at Camp LeJeune and was a victim of the tainted water. He also suffered several injuries related to his exposure to Agent Orange. As a result of both of these, my father developed numerous health conditions including multiple myeloma, chronic kidney failure, diabetes, severe Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and multiple other health problems.

My father loved his country with every ounce of his being and proudly served in the United States Marine Corps.