

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

Proudly Honors



ROBERT TROWER
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
SERGEANT (E-5)
OCTOBER 15, 1964 – OCTOBER 15, 1968
WOUNDED IN ACTION, MARCH 1968



as

**PURPLE HEART PATRIOT
MAY 2025**

Honoring His Service and Sacrifice

Sponsored by: Valley of the Meramec Chapter, NSDAR



Robert Trower enlisted in the Marine Corps at age 17 and had his basic training, boot camp at Camp Pendleton, California. He also received his Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) while there.

Bob was trained to be a Combat Engineer and was on a Helicopter Support team, directing incoming helicopters to land. His other duties were on the "Shore Party", marking safe areas for troops to cross, and was a mine sweep.

He was part of the 1st Marine Division that landed in Vietnam in early March 1965.

At boot camp, they hammered into them the knowledge they were going to Vietnam to kill. (KILL THE COMMIES)

He had two tours in Vietnam, from 1965 to 1966, then Hawaii, and back to Vietnam in 1967 to 1968. His rank was Sergeant E-5.

Bob received a Purple Heart Medal from friendly fire. His group was pinned down on an embankment by friendly fire and enemy fire on 3 sides:





They were called in that night and did not know if he would make it through the night. They were told they would get offshore firing and F-4 airplanes all night. Then at daybreak, jets would fly 50 meters high and drop napalm and bombs. Helicopters would be right behind and pick them up. The dead soldiers were loaded first, then the wounded, then the rest.

What had happened, they were on patrol to estimate enemy strength. They estimated there to be 500 but were told there were probably 30 to 50 thousand troops massing along the Laos and North Vietnam borders. They were planning a big offensive, which turned out to be North Vietnam's biggest offensive.

While pinned down, he received a piece of shrapnel which came over the embankment, entered his leg above the knee, and traveled to his ankle.

He was wounded in March of 1968 and flew in a helicopter to Da Nang in 10 minutes. His leg was wrapped in the thought he might lose it. He asked if he would lose his leg and the word was 50/50. He was flown immediately to TanSanNuet air base in 20 minutes. They worked on his leg with the chance of 75 percent to keep and 25 percent losing it. In the middle of the night, he was flown to Tokyo, where they further worked on his leg. They said if he did as he was told, he would not lose it.

The second week he was flown to Great Lakes Naval Hospital in Chicago and was discharged in October 1968.

Medals and Citations he received:

- Purple Heart
- One Bronze Star
- Vietnam Service Medal
- Good Conduct Medal

