

MISSOURI STATE SOCIETY DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Proudly Honors



VIRGIL CLAUDE KEETER
UNITED STATES ARMY
SERGEANT (E-5)
DECEMBER 26, 1943 – SEPTEMBER 1943



WOUNDED IN ACTION TWICE

as

PURPLE HEART PATRIOT

JULY 2025

Sharon Keeter Boxwell, Honoring Her Father's Service and Sacrifice

Sponsored by: Kansas City Chapter, NSDAR



Virgil Claude Keeter served in the Army Infantry in World War II from December 26, 1943, through the end of the war. He obtained the rank of sergeant and was awarded two Purple Heart Medals. Mr. Keeter's daughter, Sharon Boxwell, says her dad told of many harrowing experiences while he was serving in the South Pacific. He became eligible to receive his first Purple Heart when a Japanese soldier jumped into his trench in the Philippines. As Keeter jumped out, he was bayoneted in the buttocks before having to kill his enemy. His duty was reconnaissance, and once, when his unit was very hungry, they raided a Japanese camp, but all they could find to eat was pineapple. At one point, he was captured in the Philippines and said he was scheduled for execution, but he escaped when he managed to burn the ropes that bound him. He told his daughter also

of being lowered on a rope to throw grenades into a hillside Japanese bunker and then being quickly drawn back up to his position. He told her that one of his hardest duties was having to amputate the leg of one of his comrades with a knife in order to save the man's life.

He came down with malaria, experiencing a 106-degree temperature, and had to be packed in ice with a fan blowing across him. According to a clipping from the Kansas City newspaper, Keeter was wounded a second time after twenty-five months in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater and placed in a hospital in Luzon, the largest and most populous island in the Philippines. A bullet, lodged near his heart, was inoperable and never extracted. His daughter Sharon also stated that

both of his Purple Heart Medals were later lost in a burglary of his Kansas City home.

Mr. Keeter died in 1991 at the age of 74.

WOUNDED A SECOND TIME.
Sergt. Virgil C. Keeter Was in Action on Luzon.

Sergt. Virgil C. Keeter, husband of Mrs. Genevieve Keeter, 6411 East Twelfth street, was wounded for the second time June 17 on Luzon and now is in a hospital in the Pacific area, it has been learned.



Keeter has been stationed in the Pacific area for twenty-five months and holds the Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster. His mother lives at 1218 Bellefontaine avenue.

Sergt. Virgil C. Keeter.

Virgil Keeter

Name Virgil Keeter
Birth abt 1914
Residence 1930 Kansas City,
e Missouri, USA

U.S., World War II Draft Cards Young Men, 1940-1947

SERIAL NUMBER 766	1. NAME (Print) Virgil Claude Keeter	ORDER NUMBER 12
2. ADDRESS (Print) 3937 Campbell, Kansas City, Jackson, Mo.		
3. TELEPHONE —	4. AGE IN YEARS 23 DATE OF BIRTH Dec 28 1916	5. PLACE OF BIRTH Harrison Arkansas
6. COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP U.S.A.		7. NAME OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS Mrs. G.R. Critchlow
8. ADDRESS OF THAT PERSON 1111 Fremont, Kansas City, Jackson, Mo.		9. RELATIONSHIP OF THAT PERSON Sister
10. EMPLOYER'S NAME A.B. Passman - Liberty Frack Co.		
11. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS 205 E 22 Kansas City, Jackson, Mo.		
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.		
REGISTRATION CARD D. R. S. FORM 1 10-17105 Virgil C. Keeter Signature		

Virgil Claude Keeter

Name Virgil Claude Keeter
Relative G R Critchlow
Birth 23 Dec 1916 Harrison,
Arkansas, USA
Residence 1940 Kansas City, Jackson,
e Missouri, USA