

MISSOURI STATE SOCIETY DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Proudly Honors



JOHN E. LANMAN

UNITED STATES ARMY

SPECIALIST (E-4)

MARCH 1, 1967 – AUGUST 1, 1968

WOUNDED IN ACTION, NOVEMBER 18, 1967

as

PURPLE HEART PATRIOT

JULY 2025

Honoring His Service and Sacrifice

Sponsored by: Mary Hempstead Lisa Chapter, NSDAR



John E. Lanman was drafted into the U.S. Army on March 1, 1967, at age 20. A native of Allendale, Illinois, he was raised on a farm, an upbringing that instilled in him courage and perseverance. He trained at Fort Leonard Wood and at "Tiger Land" in Fort Polk, Louisiana, where he prepared for jungle warfare in Vietnam.

Assigned as a reconnaissance and infantry radio operator, John served 366 days in Vietnam during the height of the war. He carried an 85-pound radio, weapons, and gear while navigating treacherous terrain and maintaining radio silence. He was stationed near the Central Highlands-Dakto and Cambodia, including the significant Hill #1338, where he was wounded.

On November 18, 1967, John was severely wounded in an ambush. A Chinese Claymore explosive inflicted shrapnel wounds to his shoulder, chest, and hip. He was airlifted to a Mobile Army Surgical Hospital (MASH unit) and then hospitalized for six weeks. During recovery, a general presented him with his Purple Heart Medal for his multiple injuries sustained in combat. It was a sad day as 35 of his 107-man unit were lost that day.

After returning to the U.S., John served at Fort Dix, New Jersey, where he was a driver for headquarters. He later earned a degree in business from Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville, and owned a McDonald's franchise.

For many years, John remained silent about his service. That changed at age 60 when his daughter invited him to speak at a school program. He is now a proud member of the American Legion Post 556 in Chesterfield, Missouri, and speaks about the importance of service and sacrifice.

John credits his strength to his rural upbringing and the guidance of his high school teacher, Evelyn Lett. He reminds us: "Freedom is not free". He hopes his story inspires others to honor history, value liberty, and leave the world better than they found it.