

MISSOURI STATE SOCIETY DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Proudly Honors

PATRIOT OF THE MONTH

JULY 2025



JOHN CHARLES NICKELL

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

STAFF SERGEANT (E-6)

JULY 4, 2000 – JULY 4, 2005

Sponsored by:

White Alloe Chapter, NSDAR



John Charles Nickell began his military service in the U.S. Marines Corps on July 4, 2000, soon after graduating from high school. Born in the small southern town of Butler, Alabama, John, his brother James, and his sister Kathryn were homeschooled by their mother. He was a member of the local church and active in Boy Scouts, achieving Eagle Scout.

His parents instilled a strong work ethic in him from a young age, and he worked while in high school at several part-time jobs including the town's grocery store and on staff at Boy Scout camp. Not from a family with strong military ties, his parents supported John's desire to join the U.S. Marine Corps with some trepidation.

At 18 he chose the Marines because of their reputation as, "the few, the proud," knowing if he could complete the challenges that lay ahead, he *would* be capable and confident in whatever he chose to do after his service.

From Alabama, he went to Jackson, Mississippi, for final health qualifications, and to Parris Island, South Carolina, for boot camp. He completed Marine Combat Training (MCT) at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, before graduating from computer and electronics school at Twenty-Nine Palms, California. At Camp Pendelton, he served in the 1st Marine Division Headquarters Battalion and received a Meritorious Merit Medal in May of 2002 for "Superior Performance of duty leading to the selection of Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) of the quarter for the Communication Company, 1st Marine Division Headquarters Battalion." While at Camp Pendelton he signed up to take online classes with Park University through the base Joint Education Center to further his education. He credits this in large part to Corporal Corrales who strongly encouraged John to continue his education.

Later, he was part of the Marine Security Guard Battalion which provides security for consulates and embassies around the world. He served in this capacity for three of the five years he was in the Marines. He served the consulate in Cape Town, South Africa, the embassy in Yerevan, Armenia, and the consulate in St. Petersburg, Russia. He also provided supplemental security for then Secretary of State, Colin Powell's visit to Nairobi in 2003 and President George W. Bush's 2005 visit to Moscow for the 60th anniversary of WWII.

The hardest part of military life for John to adapt to was the conflict between what the military entailed and expected, and his firm Christian beliefs. The easiest part of military life was the structure and always knowing exactly what was expected of him.

John was promoted to Sergeant in 2003 and left active-duty service July 4, 2005. He received a promotion to Staff Sergeant while completing his Inactive Reserve commitment. After his service ended, he returned to Butler, Missouri, where the small-town boy was welcomed home. His childhood dog, Sweetie Pie died while en route, but his rescue dog, Semper Fido was there to greet him with great enthusiasm.

In November 2005, John moved to Parkville, Missouri, to finish his degree in Computer Science with an emphasis on Networking with Park University leveraging the benefits of the GI Bill. He started working for Zahner in Kansas City as an intern in February of 2007 and upon graduation was hired full-time in May 2008. The hiring manager cited John's military and Boy Scout service as contributing factors to being the winning candidate. He remains a strong Christian being very active in his church, still enjoys his work at Zahner 18 years later, and will celebrate 15 years of wedded bliss this year to his sweetheart, Angie.

The Marines helped him recognize how diverse backgrounds and situations are in other parts of the world, that there is more than one way to do things, gave him the strength and willingness to stand for things more firmly, and shaped him into the man he is today. Indeed, the U.S. Marines Corps did help him become, "capable and confident".

The White Alloe Chapter, NSDAR, is proud to recognize John Charles Nickell as Patriot of the Month for his patriotism and service to our beloved country.