

MISSOURI STATE SOCIETY DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Proudly Honors



CHARLES WILLIAM BLAND

**UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
CORPORAL (TW)**

MARCH 15, 1944 – MAY 21, 1946

WOUNDED IN ACTION, MAY 4, 1945

as

PURPLE HEART PATRIOT

AUGUST 2025

Dr. Jane Armer, Honoring Her Father's Service and Sacrifice

Sponsored by: Prairie Chapter, NSDAR



Charles William Bland was born on March 28, 1926, in Greenup, rural Cumberland County, Illinois, as the oldest son of a family of seven children. He plowed with horse-drawn equipment by age eight, lived with an Amish family in the summer to help with farm chores, and left public school after eighth grade to work full-time laying ties for the railroad. At age 17, Charles enlisted as a private in the U.S. Marine Corps in Chicago, Illinois, on March 15, 1944. He served in the Asiatic Pacific Area from September 16, 1944, to April 20, 1946, with qualifications in rifle and as a light machine gun crewman. Charles participated in action against the enemy in Okinawa, Ryukyu Islands, from April 14, 1945, to May 6, 1945.

He shared that he taught marksmanship to enlistees because he was a farm boy who hunted food for his family, and some enlistees had not handled a rifle before!

He was wounded in action on May 4, 1945, retaining inoperable shrapnel in his back and shoulder for the rest of his life. Charles participated in the occupation of China from October 10, 1945, to March 31, 1946. He was discharged on May 21, 1946, as a Corporal (TW). He received the Purple Heart for his wartime injury and recognition with the Good Conduct Medal from the time of enlistment, March 15, 1944, through the time of discharge, May 21, 1946. The character of his service was described as "excellent" on his discharge papers. He received buttons for Honorable Service and Honorable Discharge.

He and five other veterans from the Midwest, Ohio, pledged to "not smoke, drink, gamble, or swear". This group stayed close after the war, meeting up for reunions while health allowed.

Charles went on to a career as a rural letter carrier in Toledo, Illinois, where he received multiple citations for accident-free driving and was also a successful full-time beef and grain farmer. He and his wife of 67 years, Betty, raised two daughters, Brenda Page and Jane Armer, and were blessed with three grandsons and two great-grandchildren. Charles passed away on July 3, 2016, at the age of 90 in Ashland, Missouri.

