

# MISSOURI STATE SOCIETY DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

*Proudly Honors*



**JAMES FRANCIS COLEMAN**  
UNITED STATES ARMY  
SERGEANT (E-5)  
1943 – 1945

KILLED IN ACTION – FEBRUARY 29, 1968  
as

**PURPLE HEART PATRIOT  
AUGUST 2025**

*Mary Lou Darnell, Honoring Her First Cousin's Service and Sacrifice*  
Sponsored by: **Louisiana Purchase Chapter, NSDAR**



James Francis Coleman was serving his country during the Vietnam War when he gave his all in the line of duty. A graduate of Herculaneum High School, he enlisted in the U.S. Army. He began his Vietnam tour on April 12, 1967.

As a Sergeant, his specialty was Light Weapons Infantry. He was assigned to the 4th Infantry Division, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 8<sup>th</sup> Infantry, C Company.

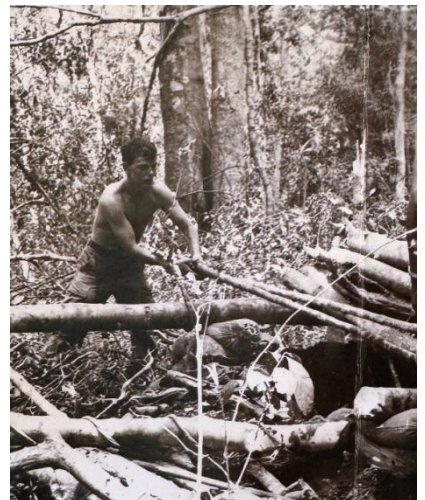
On February 29, 1968, in Kontum Province, South Vietnam, Jim suffered a traumatic event through hostile action with small arms fire. This ultimately resulted in the loss of his life.

His awards include the Purple Heart Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge, Marksmanship Badge, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, and Army Presidential Unit Citation.

Jim is buried at the Catholic Cemetery in Herculaneum, Missouri. He is honored on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. Name listed on Veterans Memorial Wall, Panel 42E, Line 2.

Following Jim's passing, his parents received correspondence from a grateful soldier who explained that Jim, despite being near discharge, had volunteered to take the soldier's place due to the latter's family obligations. This act exemplified Jim's leadership qualities and demonstrated his dedication to the welfare of his squad.

Those who knew Jim remember him not only as a dedicated soldier, but also as a warm-hearted friend and a devoted son. His legacy endures through the stories told by family, classmates, and fellow veterans—each reflecting on



his courage, resilience, and unwavering commitment to those around him. The quiet streets of Herculaneum still echo with his memory, and every Memorial Day, a flag is placed by his headstone, a silent gesture of gratitude from a community that will never forget his sacrifice. In honoring James Francis Coleman, we remember the countless individuals who have given all in service, their stories woven into the fabric of our nation's history.

On March 4, 2022, a portion of Highway 61-67 between Crystal City-Festus and Herculaneum, Missouri, was named the Sergeant James F. Coleman Memorial Highway, with the designation lasting twenty years. The Memorial Highway is visible from his family home.

The Daughters of the Louisiana Purchase Chapter, NSDAR, are proud to nominate Sergeant James Francis Coleman as a Purple Heart Patriot and extend their gratitude for his patriotic service and commitment to our great nation.

