

MISSOURI STATE SOCIETY DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION



Proudly Honors
PATRIOT OF THE MONTH

SEPTEMBER 2025

LYNDA ANDERSON

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

JUNE 1981–FEBRUARY 1989

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS RESERVE

MARCH 1988 – JUNE 1989

SERGEANT (E-5)

Sponsored by: Missouri's Shoal Chapter, NSDAR



Lynda Anderson enlisted and entered the Marine Corps in June of 1980. She was 18 years old and had just graduated from high school in Walnut, Iowa. She boarded a plane in Omaha, Nebraska, and flew to Chicago and on to Charleston, South Carolina. From Charleston, she took a bus to Parris Island, South Carolina, where she received her training for three months at Quantico, Virginia. After her training at Quantico, she returned to Parris Island, where she spent her entire active duty. Lynda served during peacetime and was trained as a COBOL programmer.

Lynda came from a military family. Her Dad was in the Air Force and stationed at McConnell Air Base in Wichita, Kansas, when Lynda was born. She has three brothers who served representing the Navy, Marine Corps, and Army. She chose the Marine Corps, and her daughter and niece followed her. She has two daughters, and her husband is deceased. Lynda's parents were supportive of her joining the

military. They felt it gave her a place to live, meals, benefits, and was a good choice for her.

The hardest part for Lynda joining the military was adjusting to change, coming from a small rural community, having never been away from home (homesick), culture shock, and exposure to people of color and ethnic differences. The best advice she was given after joining the military was "Do what you are told and don't give an opinion unless you are asked." The best advice she would give young ladies joining the military is, "Don't ever expect to be treated the same as your male counterpart." She was given the Good Conduct Medal. She said in the early 80s, it was harder for women than men to achieve meritorious awards because they had limited opportunities to achieve merit. She reached the Sergeant E5 rank.

Lynda told a story of three soldiers pulling a prank on their Master Gunnery Sergeant. When they were caught, they were threatened with court-martial, but their Commanding General thought it was the funniest prank, and he ordered them to polish the Brass Bell at the General's Building two times a day for the next two weeks. She said soldiers are not serious all the time. They are just kids,

wanting to have a good time, sometimes good, sometimes not. They are learning to perform a job set before them.

Her active duty ended in February 1987. They had lunch in the conference room and were told goodbye. She made the choice to be discharged as her service time was fulfilled. She signed up for four years and gave five-plus years. After leaving, she spent time in the reserves at Charleston, South Carolina, Naval Base, and Kansas City Bannister Complex from March 1988 to June 1989. After leaving the military, Lynda got a job as a computer programmer, a job she had learned in the military. She worked in Kansas City for Sprint, Western Auto, DST, and retired from DST.

Lynda feels like the service gave her more self-confidence, as she was shy when she entered, and now has the confidence to speak to strangers. She feels the best part of her service experience was “learning structure”. As a result, she has found it is difficult to adjust to nonmilitary jobs because of the lack of structure. Her message to future generations: “Take the chance. If you don’t like it, you can always get out”.