

MISSOURI STATE SOCIETY DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION



Proudly Honors
**PATRIOT OF THE MONTH
SEPTEMBER 2025**

MARVIN E. TURNER

**UNITED STATES ARMY NATIONAL GUARD
AUGUST 1978 – MARCH 2005
SPECIALIST 4 (E-4)**

Sponsored by: Missouri Shoal Chapter, NSDAR



Marvin E. Turner was interviewed at his home with his wife present. Marvin was born in Bethany, Missouri. He had three siblings and was the only one who served in the military. He attended school in Cainsville, Missouri, where he graduated from high school. Before joining the military, he worked at a Cap factory.

Following his marriage, he entered the Army National Guard with his wife in support of the decision. On entering the service, he flew by plane from Kansas City to Fort Sill, Oklahoma. He always wanted to join the military and joined the Army so he would be close to home. At this time, he also had a son. His military training consisted of big guns and cannons, military police, and mechanics. His training memories are the obstacle course he went through, good and a fun experience. The bad part was being away from family. He had good memories of a drill sergeant.

Marvin's first assignment after Basic Training was two weeks of summer camp in Minnesota. The hardest part of the training was going through the gas chamber. His promotions were from Private to E2, then E3 and E4. Achievement is graded on walking and behavior. The hardest part to adapt to is being gone for two weeks, and the easiest part is getting back to the family.

His wartime service first occurred in November 2003 in Germany till March 2005. It was a good experience, no war zone, he replaced soldiers going to Iraq. He developed friendships in the military and stayed in touch with one guy. While he was stationed in Germany, he got to go sightseeing in Germany, Austria, and France. His wife got to visit him for two weeks during his time there. After the 9-11 Twin Towers Attack, Marvin spent three months in St. Louis and one month in Kansas City providing airport security. In 2002, he spent two weeks in Ketchikan, Alaska, as a mechanic.

Marvin served from August 19, 1978, to March 2005, "In Support of Operation Enduring Freedom". Medals he received were the Army Commendation Medal, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal (4th award), National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with M device, Army Service Ribbon, and Overseas Service Ribbon.

Marvin's service ended in Albany, Missouri, his home station. There was a celebration for his unit returning home. About eighty soldiers were returning. His retirement celebration was in Albany, also. His wife was working in California at the time, so she could not be there. He found readjusting to civilian life easy. He went to work driving a truck. He feels the military made him a "better person". He feels the life lessons he learned in the military are being more diligent, neater, and he would do it again. His message to future generations is "Join the Military, good benefits after twenty years, and a positive influence".