

MISSOURI STATE SOCIETY DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Proudly Honors

MICHAEL R. CHICK

UNITED STATES ARMY
HOSPITAL CORPSMAN

SEPTEMBER 1968 – JUNE 1970

WOUNDED IN ACTION, JULY 31, 1969

as

**PURPLE HEART PATRIOT
OCTOBER 2025**

Linda Chick, Honoring Her Husband's Service and Sacrifice
Sponsored by: Jane Randolph Jefferson Chapter, NSDAR



Michael "Mike" R. Chick graduated from Helias High School in 1968 in Jefferson City, Missouri. After working in construction for a few months after his graduation, Mike and his friend John Prenger decided to enlist in the U.S. Army to get it over with instead of being drafted. They enlisted via the "buddy program" in September 1968. Mike and John were sent to Fort Leonard Wood for their basic training. However, the friends were soon separated as Mike received orders for infantry training and John was assigned to artillery. Mike had said that he must have proved himself to be too good a rifle shot in basic training when discussing his assignment to the infantry.

For the next eight weeks, Mike attended advanced infantry training at Fort Ord in California, followed by his receipt of orders for service in Vietnam. Boarding a plane at Travis Air Force Base in California, the soldier arrived at Long Binh, Vietnam, in January 1969. He then completed a week of jungle training and was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 60th Infantry Regiment ("River Raiders"), Mobile Riverine Force.

Mike recalled that they operated off a big Navy ship on the Mekong River. For several months, 20 or so soldiers would leave the ship on Tango boats and go downriver on five-day operations.

They gave you a map that showed you where to go, and they would chase the Viet Cong (VC) through the jungles in search and destroy missions. Sometimes they would also search for villages for the VC.

On one mission, Mike said that several of his fellow soldiers were wounded and others killed when a member of their group tripped on a booby-trapped 105 mm round. They had to pick up one guy with a poncho who had lost part of his leg and arm after

the round exploded. Unfortunately, this is what these young soldiers had to see and experience up close and personal.

Three months after his assignment to the Riverine forces, Mike learned the 3rd Battalion, 60th Infantry Regiment would be one of the first groups to return to the United States. Being that he only had three months of combat duty behind him, he was reassigned to Company K, 6th Battalion, 31st Infantry, located at Dong Tam, nearly 40 miles south of Saigon.

On the morning of July 31, 1969, Mike recounted, he and a group of soldiers were patrolling along a dike between rice paddies while guarding the perimeter of Dong Tam. It was during this patrol that Mike unknowingly stepped over a booby trap. The guy behind him, Robert Roberts, who had been a football player in Texas, stepped on the booby trap, and it exploded. It blew Mike forward and Roberts up in the air. Roberts ended up losing his leg, and Mike received shrapnel in his hip and calf.

They were evacuated to a Mobile Army Surgical Hospital (MASH). Mike recalled that Roberts quit breathing for the third time, and Mike watched from his hospital bed as the medical staff cut open his friend's chest to massage his heart. A vision that has continued to stick in Mike's mind, and he has never forgotten.

Mike was later transferred to a hospital in Japan and later sent to Fort Sill in Oklahoma to undergo physical therapy and learn to walk again. He finished out the remaining months of his enlistment with a supply unit at Fort Leonard Wood, leaving the Army in June 1970, three months early, so he could attend classes at Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri.

Mike was employed as a union sheet metal worker, alongside his father, Curtis Chick, Sr. Curtis Chick, II, was a Veteran serving in the U.S. Army and U.S. Navy. Mike's brother, Curtis Chick, II., also served in the US Army. Mike owned Chick's Tap Room on the west end of Jefferson City and Chicks II on the east side of town. His establishment on the east side, Chicks II, provided food and music for their patrons. Mike retired in 2007. He opened a café in downtown Jefferson City called Downtown Diner.





Mike's health caused him to slow down and take better care of himself, at which time he sold the Downtown Diner in 2010. He was diagnosed with diabetes and began treatment without knowledge of its connection to his military service in Vietnam. A Veteran's service officer educated him on the link between Agent Orange exposure and diabetes.

Mike was awarded the Bronze Star with Valor and was a two-time Purple Heart recipient, among many other awards.

Mike Chick was a big ole guy with an even bigger smile. He loved being around people enjoying themselves, whether it was a good meal, great music, or a cold beverage. He belonged to St Peter's Church and the Knights of Columbus.

Mike loved his wife, Linda, and together they have six children. Michael II, Matthew, Gregory, Jessica Chick, Matthew, and Joshua Burnett. Mike and Linda also have three grandchildren.

Michael II retired from the U.S. Navy after 20 years of service, where he served as a Hospital Corpsman attached to the Marines. Gregory served four years in the US Army.

Mike was very athletically inclined and known as a "Gym Rat" at the local YMCA in Jefferson City. He was very passionate about playing sports, including softball, baseball, and rugby, which he played well into his 40s, tug-of-war, and won the arm-wrestling competition three years in a row at the Cole County Fair. Mike and Linda liked to travel when time allowed. With such a busy life, he enjoyed sitting down and just playing Texas Hold 'Em with his friends, smoking a good cigar, and making salsa that he shared with others as gifts, but most of all, he enjoyed time with his family.