

MISSOURI STATE SOCIETY DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION



Proudly Honors
PATRIOT OF THE MONTH

OCTOBER 2025

RUTH DEWITT

**UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
1968 –1980**

Sponsored by: Gilead Rupe Chapter, NSDAR



Ruth DeWitt enlisted in the United States Air Force under a delayed enlistment program in 1974. She left from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in March 1975 for basic training at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. She then went to Chanute Air Force Base in Illinois for training as a jet engine mechanic. This followed an assignment to Dover Air Force Base, Delaware, for three years. Ruth then found herself assigned to Elmendorf Air Force Base in Alaska. She remembers that while at Dover that often dignitaries would come through the engine shop. As one of twelve crews in the shop, they had to keep the WHITE floor spotless at all times. Her crew was all women. At Dover, she was on the flight line and worked on engines for C-5A planes. When she was assigned to Alaska, her role switched to maintaining C-130s and F-4s in Iso-Docks. She remembered that on the coldest day while she was there, it was 70 below zero with the wind blowing, and the flight line was closed. As the 2nd shift supervisor, she had to help take an F-4 from the Iso-Docks to the far side of the flight line to have

someone test the engines. She was in the cockpit while the aircraft was being towed and had to ride the brakes. It was very tense because if she had hit the brakes too soon, it would have caused the tractor to smack the jet and cause damage. Fortunately, all went well!

After serving in the Air Force, Ruth raised her family and was the bookkeeper, payroll, and office manager for a family-owned company in Pennsylvania. In 2019, she moved to Missouri to be closer to her daughter, Renee, and her family. Ruth sometimes wishes she'd stayed in the Air Force longer, for it was a great experience she'll never forget.

The Gilead Rupe Chapter, NSDAR, is honored to recognize a woman who proudly served her country in the United States Air Force.