

MISSOURI STATE SOCIETY DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION



Proudly Honors
PATRIOT OF THE MONTH

OCTOBER 2025
JAMES ARTHUR KING

UNITED STATES ARMY

JUNE 1969 – FEBRUARY 1972

Sponsored by: Webster Groves Chapter, NSDAR



James “Jim” Arthur King was born in Wanakena, New York, on May 7, 1945. Jim pointed out, “I was born on the same day that Japan’s surrender ended World War II.” He was the eldest child of Joseph and Marion King, along with three younger sisters. Jim’s father served in the Army Air Corps during WWII, and his parents raised him to “be responsible and honest.” Jim lived with his Aunt and Uncle in the Bronx while attending the Academy of Aeronautics and graduated in 1966 as a Federally Licensed Air Frame Power Plant (A&P) Mechanic. The following year, he moved to downtown St. Louis while the Arch was being built and started work for Boeing. He really enjoyed cars and mechanics and spent a lot of time outdoors with his friends, and that was when he met Jane, who was a neighbor. Jane would come outside with her trash, and he would hold the dumpster open for her. From that start, love grew into marriage.

The couple married in 1968, and the very first day home from their honeymoon, there was a draft notification waiting for Jim. At the time of enlisting, Jim decided to increase his service time, and an additional year was added. He went to Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri for Basic Combat Training and onto Fort Gordon in Georgia, for Advanced Individual Training as a 35L20, which is Aircraft Radio Specialized training.

In August 1969, the newlyweds moved to Schofield Barracks on the island of Oahu in Hawaii. The Army then sent Jim to school to fix aircraft radios and then helicopter maintenance. He was in the same unit as those who fixed radios in the 25th Infantry Division, 425th Support Division. His Chief Warrant Officer told Jim, “You are up here to do the hard stuff; no grunt work.”

While in Hawaii, Jim got his pilot’s license and was hired at the Aero Club as a mechanic. He worked his Army job during the day and Aero Club at night. When Vietnam was drawing down, there was even more training for Jim. He was sent to the Kiowa Bell OH-58 factory training and graduated #1 in his class.

After his Army service, Jim returned to St. Louis and Boeing. After a successful career, Jim retired in 2011 as a manager for Boeing in the product support department. Jane and Jim have two children, Stacy and Joe, and are the proud grandparents of Ava. In addition, they are Grandma Jane and Grandpa Jim to six step-grandchildren and ten step-great-grandchildren. The couple resides in Fenton, Missouri..