

MISSOURI STATE SOCIETY DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION



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

WILLIAM EDGAR THURNAU
UNITED STATES ARMY AVIATION
1968 – 1971

Sponsored by: Nodaway Chapter, NSDAR



William "Bill" Edgar Thurnau was born on February 5, 1949, to Edgar and Dorothy Thurnau of Maitland, Missouri. Bill grew up on a farm and graduated from Nodaway-Holt High School, Graham, Missouri, in 1967. He has three siblings.

In September 1968, Bill was drafted into the Army Aviation Division. He spent nine weeks of basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, in Missouri, and then 16 weeks of aviation training at Fort Eustis, Virginia, and then he was shipped to Vietnam in early 1969 to Vietnam, where he served as a mechanic, keeping helicopters and airplanes serviceable. His base camp was located at Phu Loi, northwest of Saigon. Bill served in Vietnam until September 1971. He was very modest about his service in Vietnam, pointing out that he did not have to engage in combat. We pointed out that every job

there was important to keep the war running as best as possible.

Bill's rank upon coming home was as a Staff Sergeant E2/E, Spec5/6. His wages in Vietnam were \$82 a month. Bill was awarded the Vietnam Service Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, and three (3) Commendation Medals.

Bill then joined the Air National Guard and served 10 more years. During his term with the Guards, the Department of Defense sent him to Iran in 1978 to teach the Iranians mechanics. His rate of pay upon retiring from the National Guard was \$1,600 per month.

Bill stated that he believes that the draft should be reinstated, and that as Americans, it is our duty to serve our country, and learn discipline and respect. He is very proud of his 13 years of service and joined the 256th American Legion, based in Maitland, Missouri.

Bill and his wife, Carol, are the proud parents of two children and two grandchildren. They live in Maitland, Missouri, and are both retired, enjoying the fruits of their lifelong work ethic.