

MISSOURI STATE SOCIETY DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION



Proudly Honors
**PATRIOT OF THE MONTH
NOVEMBER 2025
GREGORY ALLEN SMITH**
**UNITED STATES ARMY
FIRST LIEUTENANT (O2)
1989 – 1992**



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LITTLE BLUE RIVER Chapter, NSDAR



Gregory Allen "Greg" Smith was born in 1963, the youngest of five siblings in Warrensburg, Missouri, and the first baby to be born at the new Johnson County Memorial Hospital. His father served in the Army in the Korean War, and Greg is the only child in the family to also serve in the military. He was a member of the Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) at Central Missouri State University, where he graduated in 1989 with a degree in Criminal Justice Administration. On his graduation day in December, he was also commissioned into the Army as a second Lieutenant at Fort Riley, Kansas. He immediately moved there with his first wife of two years.

He stated his father was very proud of his service. Four months later, he was transferred to the 24th Infantry Division at Fort Stewart, Georgia. There, he graduated from many courses, including Ranger School, Bradley Fighting Vehicle School, and Airborne School by 1990. At one point, he also attended Air Assault School in Tennessee. His father went to visit him, and they went to see Fort Knox, hoping to see the gold "like the Beverly Hillbillies" did. They did see the fort, but, of course, not any gold. Since he had not traveled anywhere his entire life, this trip was very special to spend with his dad. They also saw Nashville, which he did not realize was very large, not like his vision of a small country town.

Later in 1990, he was transferred to Iraq, where he served in the Infantry for one year. He stated that after many presentations by his superiors and being issued his own body bag to carry on his person, he did not believe he would return alive. He was trained that the Iraqi Army was so well-trained that they would defeat the American soldiers easily. As a result, the infantrymen studied and trained even harder while deployed there. He said he spent many nights patrolling the roads and defeating persons along

the way. He also reported writing many letters to his mother during that year, but most of them were never received by her.

Greg advised that he has always carried good luck charms with him and produced a pocketful of items. He has buckeyes, lucky stones, a bear tooth, a four-leaf clover charm, an arrowhead, and other items he has carried since before deployment. He "wasn't taking any chances". He advised that he learned two important things in the Army: "Don't take anything for granted. Also, we should be very glad we live here in this country."

As a result of this service, he contracted cancer in the lymph nodes of his neck and much skin cancer. He has had surgery to remove his lymph nodes and to rebuild the structures in his neck. He has also had many cancerous skin lesions removed. Additionally, he suffers from Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and has received therapy through the Veterans' Administration (VA).

He returned to the United States in 1991 and graduated from Quartermaster School. He did not enjoy quartermaster duties and was honorably discharged from the Army in 1992 as a First Lieutenant, Captain Promotable.

Mr. Smith earned the following awards while serving in the U.S. Army: Kuwait Liberation Medal, Army Service Ribbon, National Defense Service Medal, Army Lapel Button, Air Medal, Air Assault Badge, Parachutist Badge, Combat Infantryman Badge, Southwest Asia Service Medal, with two Bronze Service Stars.

He did return to Fort Riley once after his discharge to see a prior commander promoted to General. He participated in the Change of Command Ceremony, which he said was very meaningful and special. He maintains contact with some of his fellow soldiers via Facebook. One thing he would like more people to understand is the trauma, both physical and mental, that military personnel endure for a lifetime, especially Vietnam veterans.

Following his service, he fathered two children, a daughter who is now 30, and a son who is 24. He has been married to his current wife, Brandi, for ten years. They have several dogs.

Before the Army, his only job was working as a teen for Pizza Hut. Following his service, he was a police officer for the Warrensburg Police Department for a short period. He then went to work for the Raytown Police Department for eight years. His last place of employment was as a Master Sergeant for the Grandview Police Department, where he retired in 2021 with a total of 28 years of outstanding law enforcement service. Greg also trained numerous police and community personnel in matters regarding domestic violence. He has a caring heart for survivors of such abuse and is always willing to share his experiences and expertise.

Since his retirement, he spends most of his time running marathons and half marathons and riding his bike for charity. He has been raising money for kids' cancer organizations and recently completed a 200-mile ride, raising over \$2700. Last year, he completed eight half-marathons. Thus far in 2025, he has completed eight half-marathons and the Eisenhower full marathon, as well as his recent bike-a-thon. Being a cancer survivor has made him passionate about a cure for kids' cancer.

Greg Smith is an outstanding patriot. His service to the United States in the US Army while stationed in the Middle East and stateside, was outstanding. His further service for 28 years in law enforcement is amazing. He continues to serve by raising money for

cancer research for children. He is also my faithful friend since college and through our professions in criminal justice since the 1980s. I am proud to nominate Greg Smith for Patriot of the Month from the Little Blue River Chapter, NSDAR.