

# **MISSOURI STATE SOCIETY DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION**



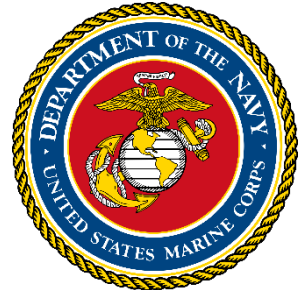
*Proudly Honors*  
**PATRIOT OF THE MONTH  
DECEMBER 2025**

**JOHN F. OLENICK**  
**UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS  
SERGEANT**

**AUGUST 24, 1965 – JUNE 24, 1969**

*Sponsored by:*

**Clark County Chapter, NSDAR**



This month, our community proudly recognizes John F. Olenick as our Patriot of the Month for his lifelong service, dedication, and patriotism.

John F. Olenick was born in Somerville, New Jersey, in 1946. He spent his early years on the East Coast and graduated from Hunterdon Central High School in Flemington, New Jersey. Soon after graduation, John answered the call to serve his country by enlisting in the United States Marine Corps on August 24, 1965.

He completed boot camp at Parris Island Marine Corps Recruit Depot in South Carolina, followed by Advanced Infantry Training at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. He then attended Jet Engine Mechanic School in Memphis, Tennessee, before being assigned to his first squadron at Cherry Point, North Carolina.

In October 1966, John and his unit were deployed to Da Nang, Vietnam, where he served as a Jet Engine Mechanic working on the A-6 Intruder, an all-weather bomber used for both day and night operations. During his time in Vietnam, John also volunteered to assist at Khe Sanh in 1967 when the base came under siege.

His dedication and bravery earned him numerous commendations, including the Combat Action Ribbon, Presidential Unit Citation, Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry, Vietnamese Service Ribbon with two stars, Vietnamese Campaign Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal, and multiple Unit Citations.

Among his most memorable experiences was working with a Special Forces Team, where he and his crew set up reflectors to guide aircraft bombing missions with precision—an operation that required immense courage and technical skill.

After returning home, John worked for RCA in New Jersey before transitioning to a career in truck driving for 11 years. In 1977, John moved to Illinois, where he began a new chapter in his life and joined the BNSF Railroad, remaining there until his retirement.

In 1968, John married Sue, the love of his life. This year, they celebrate 57 wonderful years of marriage. Together, they raised three daughters and shared many adventures, traveling and participating in community activities.

Even in retirement, John has remained active and creative. He has crafted beautiful jewelry and continues to pursue new challenges with enthusiasm. John helped his youngest daughter earn her black belt in karate and then went on to earn his own. Not stopping there, he achieved his Third-Degree Black Belt in Taekwondo and First-Degree Black Belt in Bushido Kan Ki Jitsu.

These accomplishments stand as a testament to his lifelong determination, discipline, and drive to keep learning.

Whether serving his country, supporting his family, or strengthening his community, John F. Olenick has lived a life defined by honor, service, and patriotism. We are proud to recognize him as our Patriot of the Month.