

# MISSOURI STATE SOCIETY DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

*Proudly Honors*

**WESLEY THOMAS TWITCHEL**

**UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS**

**PRIVATE FIRST CLASS (E-3)**

**SEPTEMBER 21, 1943 – AUGUST 2, 1944**

**WOUNDED IN ACTION**

*as*

**PURPLE HEART PATRIOT**

**DECEMBER 2025**

*Betty Taylor, Honoring Her Father's Service and Sacrifice*

*Sponsored by: Prairie Chapter, NSDAR*



Wesley Thomas "Tom" Twitchel was born July 21, 1923, in New Boston, Missouri, to William Curtis Twitchel and Nellie Ellalora Jenkins.

He graduated from Marceline High School in 1942. He was a telegraph operator until he was drafted into the United States Marine Corps. He entered the service on September 21, 1943, and completed his training at a Marine base in San Diego, California.

He married Billie Merle Ellis, daughter of William and Izetta Ellis, during his furlough on January 6, 1944.

He sustained shrapnel injuries to his right arm in Okinawa on April 14, 1945, and received the Purple Heart. In a letter to his wife on April 16, 1945, he wrote, "Don't worry if you get a report, I was wounded in action. I could have hurt myself much worse, sharpening a pencil with my knife." He was honorably discharged on February 5, 1946, at the rank of Private, 1st class.

He and Billie had four children: three sons—William, Benjamin, and Robert, and a daughter—Elizabeth. William served in the Air Force, and Benjamin served in the Marine Corps during the Vietnam War.

They lived in Bucklin from 1954 to 1968, then moved back to Marceline. He worked as a wire chief for the Burlington Northern Railroad's communications department until his retirement. He was a member of the Bethany Baptist Church, the American Legion, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Together, he and Billie were members of a square dance club.

He passed away on July 12, 1991, in Columbia, Missouri, and is buried in Masonic Cemetery in Bucklin, Missouri. Billie passed on December 7, 1992, and is buried alongside him.

His daughter, Elizabeth "Betty," is a proud member of the Prairie Chapter, NSDAR.

