

# MISSOURI STATE SOCIETY DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION



*Proudly Honors*  
**PATRIOT OF THE MONTH**

**JANUARY 2026**

**MARK E. PARKS**  
**UNITED STATES ARMY**  
**LIEUTENANT COLONEL**

**FEBRUARY 27, 1981 – NOVEMBER 1, 2005**

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**Independence Pioneers Chapter, NSDAR**



In 1972, at the age of 22, Mark E. Parks knew he needed a plan to make some money. You see, he met a girl whom he calls "a gift from God." Lisa had applied for optometry school in St. Louis, and when she was accepted, he needed to figure out how to make some income. He was in the ROTC program that provided \$100 per month, and he joined the National Guard, which allotted another \$100 per month. Just enough to get by on.

Parks attended Basic Training in Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, in May 1981. As a Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) Distinguished Graduate (IT Combat Engineer-moving the troops), he was able to choose his duty station. He chose Independence because it was the unit commanded by Harry S Truman.

His job changed considerably following the 9/11 tragedy in the United States. On that day, Lieutenant Colonel Parks had to get 2,700 soldiers in 29 locations to protect the United States.

Lieutenant Colonel Parks received the following awards during his time of service: Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal (2nd Award), Army Commendation Medal (5th Award), Army Achievement Medal (2nd Award), Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal (6th Award), National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Star, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with "M" Device and 20 Year Silver Hourglass, Army Service Ribbon, Army Reserve Component Overseas Training Ribbon, MO National Guard Commendation Medal Ribbon, MO National Guard Long Service 20 Year Ribbon, MO National Guard Expeditionary Service Ribbon, MO National Guard State Emergency Duty Service Ribbon, and the MO National Guard Basic Training Ribbon.

Lieutenant Colonel Parks retired, having served 24 years as a Lieutenant Colonel. He was serving as the Chief of Staff of Brigade Headquarters.

When asked if he had any words of wisdom, he said, "Don't take a position of leadership unless you have the time and effort to devote to the job and do it right."

Mark and Lisa Parks are the parents of three children and five grandchildren. They live in Windsor, Missouri. Parks is a member of the Martin Warren Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), and serves as the Northwest District Commander, Missouri SAR Color Guard.