

MISSOURI STATE SOCIETY DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Proudly Honors

EUGENE JOSEPH LEITNER

UNITED STATES ARMY

CORPORAL (E-4)

WOUNDED IN ACTION

as

PURPLE HEART PATRIOT

JANUARY 2026

Marty Leitner Martin, Honoring Her Father's Service and Sacrifice

Sponsored by: Saint Charles Chapter, NSDAR



Eugene "Gene" Joseph Leitner was born March 27, 1930, in Edwardsville, Madison County, Illinois, where he was raised.

He joined the Army, along with his brother Walter and cousin Chuck. They were assigned to Artillery in the North Korea Sector, where Eugene was the Field Artillery Chief, attaining the rank of Corporal. On March 30, 1953, at the age of 23, he was seriously wounded in action by a missile. He was airlifted to Okinawa, and he told the story that he could see the devastation behind him as he left. He had surgery on his lower left leg, which plagued him with circulation problems for the rest of his life. These wounds awarded him the Purple Heart Medal.

He left the hospital on May 25, 1953, and returned to duty. He was not one to talk about his time in the Army, but luckily, letters that his brother sent home to their mother were saved and describe their time. My mother's birthday was July Fourth, and she loved fireworks; unfortunately, my dad suffered through them, as they reminded him of the war.

I was not able to find more service records, as they were lost in a fire.

His Purple Heart is something that my daughter chose to remember her grandfather.

