

MISSOURI STATE SOCIETY DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION



Proudly Honors
PATRIOT OF THE MONTH
APRIL 2026
MICHELLE CRABTREE
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
SERGEANT (E-5)
1990 – 1994



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Michelle Crabtree's father, along with several other family members, has served in the Air Force and other military branches. During her childhood, the family lived in several states and was stationed overseas in Spain. After her parents divorced, Michelle and her family returned to Kansas City and eventually settled in Lee's Summit.

At the age of 20, Michelle joined the Air Force, following her family's tradition and seeking new opportunities. She found basic training quite intimidating. She wasn't used to people shouting or to the physical demands of things that she had never accomplished. But she also believed in herself enough to know that she could accomplish those tasks. She learned a lot about herself: she was stronger than she ever thought she was, and she knew she could do things she never thought herself capable of doing, and see them through to the finish.

During Michelle's service from 1990 to 1994, during the Gulf War, she was stationed at a medevac hospital at Scott Air Force Base in Illinois, serving as a Medic/EMT. She worked in the medical-surgical unit and occasionally helped in the emergency room, where she cared for other patients, including those being brought back from injuries during the war. She often worked the night shift and dealt with various situations, including mental health patients and various medical emergencies. Despite all the challenges, she really enjoyed the work, found it extremely rewarding, and learned a lot about herself and what she could accomplish.

In 1994, Michelle decided she wanted to be closer to her family and was honorably discharged at the rank of Sergeant. Looking back, she wished she had stayed in the military to retire. She mentioned she'd like to go back if possible, but due to age requirements, that's not allowed. She speaks



Michelle with her father and nephew.



highly of her military experience and believes 1684 everyone should serve their country for at least four years. She believes that through military training, people can learn about themselves and gain resilience. She is also very proud that her nephew chose to enlist in the Air Force because of her service and his grandfather's service.

Upon returning home, she earned her associate's degree and worked in a doctor's office where she met her husband. She was a stay-at-home mom for about a year, then worked in childcare for eight years. For the past 20 years, she has worked in the medical billing industry as a senior claims and resolution specialist. Her work involves disputing medical bills with insurance companies, and she has learned to eloquently debate to ensure her doctors are fully reimbursed for the care they provide their patients. She says the same debate skill makes her husband crazy!

Michelle credits her military training with her ability to render aid during two medical emergencies: one involving a motorcycle wreck victim and the other, most recently, helping a gentleman suffering a stroke while he was driving.

In her spare time, Michelle assists an animal rescue group (Kansas City Dog Trappers) and her local animal control officers. She has a 28-year-old daughter who works in the Criminal Justice field. Michelle currently lives in Lee's Summit with her husband and her two cats.