

MISSOURI STATE SOCIETY DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION



Proudly Honors
PATRIOT OF THE MONTH
MAY 2026

BILLY J. ELKINS
UNITED STATES ARMY
STAFF SERGEANT (E-6)
JULY 12, 1944 – AUGUST 15, 1946
WORLD WAR II

Sponsored by:
Prairie Chapter, NSDAR



Billy J. Elkins was born in Belton, Missouri, at home. He graduated from Belton High School in 1944 and was drafted almost immediately. He was inducted into the United States Army on July 12, 1944, at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, with additional training at Buckley Field, Colorado.

He frequently wrote letters home to the family, noting his various locations, including Fort George Meade, Maryland; San Francisco, California; Manila, Philippines; Otaru, Hokkaido, Japan; and Koriyama, Japan.



As a Private First Class, he was a rifleman for eight months.

He frequently wrote letters home and mentioned that mail was being inspected from July 1945 until September 1945.

In September 1945, while in the Philippines, he noted that some of the Japanese would come down from the hills. His unit slept with their clothes on to maintain readiness for an invasion. They eventually moved to Manila, where they spent five days loading about 22 boats. Then, after six days, they arrived in Yokohama Bay.

In November 1945, there was talk of going home.

In January 1946, he was promoted to Corporal, and in May 1946, to Staff Sergeant.

He was honorably discharged on August 15, 1946, at the rank of Staff Sergeant. He was awarded: Victory Medal, Asiatic Pacific Theater Ribbon, Bronze Battle Star, Philippine Liberation Ribbon, two Overseas Service Bars, Army of Occupation Medal (Japan), and Good Conduct Medal.

In his civilian life, he retired from the Gas Service Company after 40 years. He married Dorothy Parks in February 1947, and they have one daughter, Judy Sprouse, a member of the Prairie Chapter. His grandson, Clifford Sprouse, served in Afghanistan and was the Prairie Chapter's Patriot of the Month in March 2023. Billy recently celebrated his 100th birthday!