

**MISSOURI STATE SOCIETY
DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION**



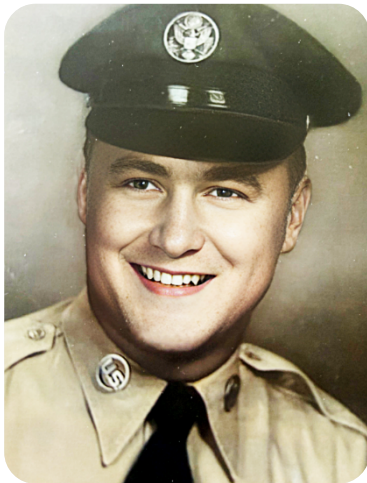
Proudly Honors
**PATRIOT OF THE MONTH
MAY 2026**

**DON JOSEPH LINDERER
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
AIRMAN FIRST CLASS (E-2)
MAY 1955 – MAY 1959**



Sponsored by:

Louisiana Purchase Chapter, NSDAR



Don Joseph Linderer enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in May 1955 following graduation from Crystal City High School, Crystal City, Missouri, joining with several of his friends under the Buddy Plan. This initiative allowed groups of friends to enlist and serve together, fostering camaraderie and support during their basic training.

Following 11 weeks of basic training at Lackland Field Base, Texas, his subsequent assignments included: Lowry Field in Colorado, Hurlburt Field in Florida, and Royal Air Force Station in Sculthorpe, England. Don was in the 84th Bomb Squadron in England as an Armament Defense Systems Operator for 14 months until his discharge on May 5, 1959. He received the Good Conduct Medal.

This interviewer asked him about a memory of his time in the service. Don related the tense moments he experienced as a tail gunner. He was part of a 3-man crew on a bomb run in Western Germany. The safety glass on the windshield shattered, making it impossible to see. The GCA, Ground Controlled Approach, had to “talk down” the crew. Despite the panic that threatened to overwhelm them, Don and the crew relied on their training and followed the GCA’s instructions, landing safely thanks to the calm guidance from ground control.

Don mentioned that his most memorable experiences during his service included Gunnery School, Overwater Survival, Swamp Survival, and In-Flight Refueling. The K-B-50 was an aerial refueling tanker developed from the B-50 bomber, which the Air Force used mainly from the late 1950s to 1965 after World War II. The most valuable advice he received was simply: “Obey the rules.”

Following his honorable discharge, he was a Maintenance Mechanic at Chrysler Corporation and the River Cement Plant. He also sold insurance for American National Insurance.

Being a member of the Knights of Columbus exemplifies his dedication to charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism.

Don shared that he was privileged to have a wonderful, close-knit family. "I am very Blessed in that respect." He loves to spend quality time with his wife, three children, nine grandchildren, and 17 great-grandchildren. In his spare time, he enjoys fishing and coloring.

The Daughters of the Louisiana Purchase Chapter, NSDAR, are proud to nominate Airman First Class Don Joseph Linderer as Patriot of the Month and extend their gratitude for his patriotic service and commitment to our great nation.