

MISSOURI STATE SOCIETY DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION



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

PAUL F. STEVENSON
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
UNITED STATES AIR NATIONAL GUARD
CAPTION (O-3)

FEBRUARY 14, 1984 – APRIL 2002

Sponsored by:

Alexander Doniphan Chapter, NSDAR



Paul F. Stevenson was born to Don and Shirley Stevenson in Kirksville, Missouri, on August 22, 1964. He grew up on a farm and decided at a very young age that he definitely was not going to be a farmer. After graduating from high school and attending the University of Missouri for a year. He thought this didn't feel like the right thing for me.

On February 14, 1984, Paul signed his name on the dotted line and joined the United States Air Force. He went to Basic Training at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas on March/April 1984. He was assigned to Chanute Air Force Base in Rantoul, Illinois, for his job assignment as an Aircrew Egress Systems Mechanic. After graduating from Chanute, he was assigned to work on F-4E fighters at Seymour-Johnson Air Force Base in Goldsboro, North Carolina, 4th

Tactical Fighter Wing. During his time there, he was one of two Egress personnel who served on the 1985 Gunsmoke Team, which was a competition team with their jets.

In 1986, Paul entered the Palace Chase program to leave active duty and was assigned to the 184th Tactical Fighter Wing in the full-time Kansas Air National Guard at McConnell Air Force Base, Kansas. He was working on ejection seats on the F-4D fighter jets. During his time there, he traveled the world on TDY (Temporary Duty) since his duty unit was a training unit teaching pilots to fly and fight in the F-4. About 1988 to 1990, his unit converted to the F-16A/B, so they had to learn to work on a new jet and a new ejection system. During this time, about 80 days, he spent the last of Desert Storm at Hahn Air Force Base, Germany, working on F-16s coming from the desert and then sent those jets back to Kansas. Eventually, his unit converted over to the F-16C/D version. Once again, his unit's mission was to train F-16 pilots to fly and fight. In about 1994, they converted to the B-1B and became an operational unit, not a training unit, but an actual fighting bomber unit. In May or June of 1996, after 12 years of enlisted service, he separated as an enlisted person to a Technical Sergeant (E-6) for an officer position.

In 1996, Paul went to Officer Candidate School (OCS) in Knoxville, Tennessee, to

become a U.S. Air Force Officer. Once he completed that training, he was sent to Shepard Air Force Base, Texas, for Maintenance Officer Training. After completing that training, he went back to the 184th Bomb Wing to serve full-time as a Logistics Flight Director commanding around 50 personnel. In 1998, he left the full-time Air National Guard and took a part-time Commander position with the 184th Maintenance Squadron and commanded around 390 military personnel. He and his family moved from Wichita to Kansas City, and he worked for the Farmland Grain Division full-time from 1998 to 2001. While maintaining his full-time job at Farmland, from Monday to Friday, he would then travel to Wichita to maintain his position in the Air Force on the weekends. In May 2001, he changed employment from Farmland to the American Institute of Baking (AIB) in Manhattan, Kansas, but remained living in Kansas City. This required a lot of traveling again.

In September 2001, the terrorist attacks happened, and he was activated (placed on orders) where he commanded the Unit Command Center (UCC) at McConnell AFB for about two months. The UCC was the largest UCC other than the Pentagon as we worked out how we could get planes back in the air after the attacks. In 2002, Paul formally requested to separate from the ANG, ending his military service at the rank of Captain (O-3).

During Paul's time of service, he earned the following awards and decorations, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal with 2 devices, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with 3 devices, Air Reserve Forces Meritorious Service Medal with 3 devices, National Defense Service Medal, Air Force Longevity Service Award Ribbon with 2 devices, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with hourglass, USAF NCO PME Graduate Ribbon, Small Arms expert Marksmanship Ribbon, Air Force Training Ribbon with 1 device, Kansas National Guard Service Medal with gold sunflower.

Paul mentioned six things that were memorable while serving. He had the opportunity to fly in the back seat of an F-4D as well as an F-16B. He really enjoyed being a 1985 Gunsmoke Team member. He enjoyed presenting at the Pentagon from 1998 to 2000. He found working on jets and systems that saved lives, and was awarded Achievement Medals and Air Force Commendation Medals for this work. He was so excited to talk about his Tour of the Old Guard at Arlington National Cemetery.

Paul had these words of wisdom: "If you have dedicated your life to service, then do it well".