

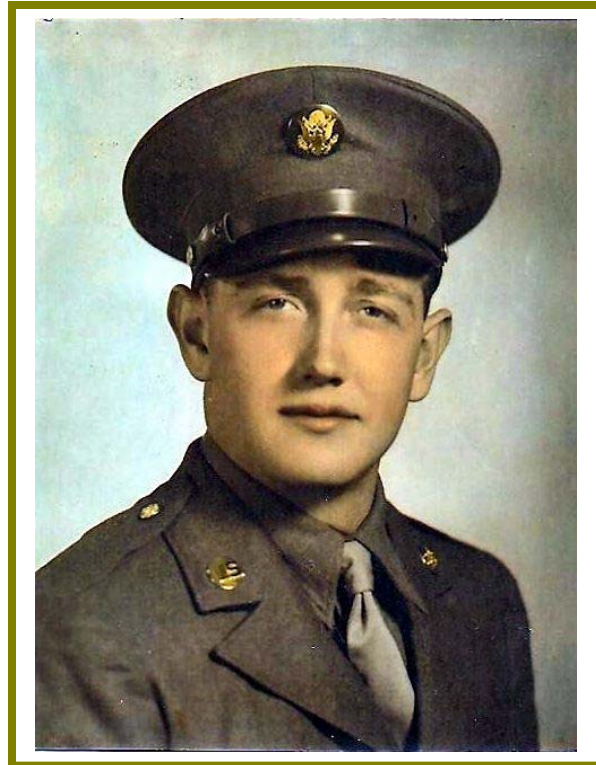
Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution
Proudly "Spotlights" our Patriot of the Month for August 2010



William H. James

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**Armstrong Chapter
Armstrong, Missouri**



William Haley James of Moberly, Missouri attended high school at Middle Grove School. In July of 1942 he married Naomi Riley and was drafted into the Army in November of that year. He received basic training at Ft. Warren, Wyoming and later received training as an automotive mechanic.

On December 19, 1944, during the Battle of the Bulge, while serving as a squad leader, he and his squad were captured and were made to march all the way from Belgium to Poland. The POWs would sleep in large barns if they were available while German guards stood watch. If barns were not available, they would sleep out in the open on the ground. There were old horses in the march and every eighth day the Germans would kill and cook a horse at night to feed the POWs. William recalls having a lot of turnip tops to eat.

After a few months as a POW, the Germans learned the American troops were nearby. They left the POWs quartered in a barn where they were free to leave or wait for the Americans. In May of 1945 William returned to the USA as a Staff Sergeant. He was discharged on November 3, 1945.

William's medals include:

- **Good conduct Medal**
- **World War II Victory Medal**
- **Purple Heart**
- **Combat Infantry Badge**
- **Rifle MKM**
- **American Theatre Ribbon**
- **European, African, Middle Eastern Theatre Ribbon w/3 Bronze Service Stars**
- **Overseas Bar**

William owned his own automotive service business for several years. He and Naomi have three children, six grandchildren, thirteen great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild.