

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution
Proudly "Spotlights" our February 2012
Patriot of the Month



**Charles
Shoemaker**

Sponsored by:

**Missouris Shoal
Chapter
Lathrop, Missouri**



Charles Shoemaker was born July 28, 1925, north of Plattsburg, Missouri. He graduated from Plattsburg High School in early 1943 and joined the United States Army in October 1943.

After basic training in Little Rock, Arkansas, he was sent to Hawaii. While standing an inspection, his group was asked if anyone knew how to cook. Several acknowledged they could cook, however, after working in the Mess Hall for a few days; several were eliminated from kitchen duty and sent back to the original battalion.

When arriving at the Mess Hall, Charles was given a fifty gallon container and told to make chocolate milk. Having never done this before, he worked until he and the Captain approved of the flavor. This began his service in the mess hall. Officers and enlisted men were always served in separate Mess Halls.

Charles remembers while on a field trip to the mountains, about five miles from the base, one of the soldiers had a heart attack. With no vehicle to use, the Colonel ran all the way back to the base to get help. He was sent to the states as this caused a strain on the Colonel's heart. Charles remembers that he was a very likeable leader who, when you met him and forgot to salute, would only ask you if your arm was broken and go on after you saluted him.

After being stationed in Hawaii for one and a half years, Charles transferred to Japan. In Japan he was assigned to the Medical Division. Charles served in Medical Division D of the 323rd Division. There were four or five doctors and a dentist stationed nearby the hospital. The dentist, who was a very good dentist and of Japanese descent, had received his dentistry degree in Chicago, Illinois.

The dining rooms in Japan were on the seventh floor of the building. All of the beef and pork received was delivered in halves, so after each meal Charles was one of those who cut it into serving pieces for the next meal. There was a Staff Sergeant on his way back from the South Pacific sent to the Mess Hall to serve and he taught Charles how to cut the meat. Charles was discharged in June 1947.

Charles doesn't remember what awards he has, except for the Good Conduct Medal.

Charles and Betty were married in 1956. They have two daughters. They are grandparents to six grandchildren and four great grandchildren. He started farming when he was discharged from the Army. Charles is a Mason and a member of the United Methodist Church where he served as Chairman of the Board of Trustees.