



Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution



December 2006 Patriot of the Month Senior Master Sergeant Darrell J. Billham

Darrell Billham joined the U.S. Air Force Reserve in January of 1974. He has served in Turkey, Pakistan, Iran, and many other places. The last four years, Darrell has been on active duty in support of Iraqi Freedom.

He is currently assigned to the 300th Airlift Squadron as a C-17 Senior Loadmaster. He has logged over 3000 flying hours in the aircraft.

One of his more interesting assignments included carrying and unloading porpoises in minefields in the waters of the Middle East at the beginning of the war. The porpoises took hooks in their mouth and attached them to underwater bombs. These hooks had buoys attached. Once located, the bombs could be de-activated by special teams. Darrell's aircraft has also carried and unloaded the President's vehicles in Venezuela and Pakistan.

Darrell has received the following honors/citations:

- Air Defense Expeditionary Medal
- Air Force Good Conduct Medal
- Air Force Training Ribbon
- Armed Forces Reserve Medal with "M" Device
- Joint Mission Unit Award
- Kuwait Liberation Medal—Kuwait
- Kuwait Liberation Medal—Saudi Arabia
- Southwestern Asia Service Medal (1 Device)
- National Defense Service Medal (2 Devices)
- Armed Forces Reserve Medal (4 Devices)
- Air Force Longevity Service Award (6 Devices)
- Combat Readiness Medal (6 Devices)
- Air Force Outstanding Unit Award (7 Devices)
- Air Force Reserve Meritorious Service Medal (9 Devices)
- Air Force Achievement Medal (3 Devices)
- Air Force Commendation Medal (1 Device)
- Air Achievement Medal (1 Device)
- United States Air Medal (1 Device)

(These are listed in order of importance with the last being the highest medal earned. By way of explanation, the number of Devices indicates how many additional medals Darrell has received for the same award. For example, he has received the Air Force Achievement Medal four times.)

Darrell is married to Elizabeth, who retired from the U.S. Air Force after 20 years with an honorable record and two commendation medals. Darrell and Elizabeth have two children and three grandchildren.

Darrell is a member of VFW Post No. 3838 in Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

Elizabeth was a member of the Nancy Hunter Chapter until she transferred to Susannah Smith Elliott Chapter in Summerville, SC, as an organizing member. She is the Regent of the chapter. Elizabeth's daughter is also a member of the same chapter.

Dorothy Points, Darrell's mother-in-law, and a member of the Nancy Hunter Chapter, proudly nominated him for Patriot of the Month.