

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



**Leonard R.
Campbell**

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**Eldon Chapter
Versailles, Missouri**



Leonard was born in 1932, on a farm north of Excelsior in Morgan County, Missouri. He was the only child of Charles and Jane Campbell. He attended several one-room schoolhouses, and graduated from Versailles High School. Upon graduation, he joined the Air Force and was assigned to cryptography school at Scott Air Force Base in Belleville, Illinois.

During the Korean War he spent two years at Elmendorf Air Force Base in Anchorage, Alaska. He worked in the cryptography vault three stories underground, coding and decoding messages, and forwarding messages to Washington, D.C. Leonard then transferred to the Air Force Communications Center in the Pentagon, where he completed his four years of duty in June 1955.

After Leonard was discharged, he returned to Versailles, Missouri. In 1957, he joined the Air Force Reserves at Richards-Gebaur Air Force Base, where he remained in the reserves until 1989. He attained the rank of Senior Master Sergeant commanding 20-25 people. During the 2nd Berlin crisis, he spent a year on active duty stationed at Richards-Gebaur Air Force Base working in the communications center.

He was employed by AT&T in Kansas City and Southwestern Bell in the Eldon and Versailles areas, until his retirement in 1991. He was married to Betty Houchen with whom he had three sons. After her death, he married Erma Jobe Oswald in 1993. They actively support local schools' sports programs, the Kansas City Chiefs, St. Louis Cardinals and the Missouri Tigers. Leonard currently serves as the American Legion Commander of Post 14, of which he has been a member for 50 years. He is a member of the Versailles High School Alumni Association, Versailles Lion's Club, Oak Grove Cemetery Association, Trinity Baptist Church and is a life member of the Morgan County Historical Society.

Leonard continues to show his patriotism in the Versailles community. He has planned the Memorial Day program at the Versailles Cemetery. He is also involved in the placing of American flags on all veterans' graves for Memorial Day, which is sponsored by the American Legion. On Veterans Day he has recited the Pledge of Allegiance over the intercom system at Versailles Elementary School and instructed the students in the proper way to salute the flag.