

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution Proudly Honors



Patriot of the Month

July 2018



Cynthia K. Patton

United States Army

Sponsored by:
White Alloe
Chapter

Cynthia graduated from high school in Dalton, Georgia in 1976 and went to Atlanta to attend Georgia State University. It is there she discovered the ROTC program. She took her first ever plane trip in the summer of 1977 to Fort Knox, Kentucky to attend ROTC Basic Camp. There she won the Golden Quill Award for her article on the language barriers faced by cadets from Puerto Rico. This was also her first exposure to people from other cultures, something that would continue to shape the life she led for many years to come.



She married a soldier and Vietnam Veteran, SGM Shephard H. Patton, Sr. and they were stationed at Fort Richardson, Alaska. After she received her commission in May 1980, she was assigned there as well, serving as the Postal Officer and Personnel Actions Officer for the 172d Infantry Brigade. Cynthia returned to her southern roots with an assignment at Fort Polk, Louisiana, where she was the Chief of Enlisted Promotions, processing over 10,000 promotions during her tenure. In 1983 she transferred to the Army Reserves and moved to Gulfport, Mississippi to manage the Patton family farm.

Through the years she commanded the 412th Replacement Detachment in Pascagoula, Mississippi; the 356th Service and Supply Battalion in Laurel, Mississippi; and was the Chief of Staff of the 3d Personnel Command in Jackson, Mississippi. She retired in February 2005 at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel after 24+ years of service.

Cynthia received numerous awards during her military career including the Meritorious Service Medal. Her service in Kuwait after 9/11 earned her several medals including the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Medal and the National Defense Service Medal. Her deployment to Kuwait was life-changing. Says Cynthia, "I gained a new appreciation for the freedoms and rights we have as U.S. citizens. I also formed friendships with fellow veterans through the hardship of being away from your family that exists to this day".

Cynthia finished her Bachelor's degree in Photojournalism at the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg and later completed a Masters in Political Science from there as well. She is a graduate of the U.S. Army Command & General Staff College and recently completed the Boston University Certificate in Genealogical Research. She continues her education through webinars and attendance at seminars. Cynthia believes that if you never stop learning you never stop living your life to its fullest.

She was married to SGM Patton for 32 years until his death and they raised one son. She also had three step-children, five grandchildren, and now nine great-grandchildren. She remarried Charles "Denny" Fitterling and has three step-daughters who are all eligible for DAR membership through their paternal ancestors here in Missouri.

She is a lifetime member of the VFW, member of the Chamber of Commerce, and attends a Methodist Church. She stays involved in her community through volunteer work and most Sunday afternoons spends her time on her favorite hobby, the search for her elusive ancestors.