

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution  
Proudly Honors

Patriot of the Month

March 2017



Everett "Rusty" Clevenger, Jr.

United States Air Force

Sponsored by:  
Rock Island  
Chapter

Everett "Rusty" L. Clevenger, Jr. enlisted in the United States Air Force at the age of 18 at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas. He also served at Buckley Air Force Base in Colorado. During the Vietnam War Rusty was stationed at Nakhon Phanom Air Force Base in Thailand. Rusty supported the search and rescue teams whose mission was to rescue our pilots shot down during the Vietnam War. As part of the munitions maintenance squadron, Rusty helped to load bombs and other munitions on the rescue planes that were constantly in use. In 1976 Rusty received his honorable discharge from Cannon Air Force Base (AFB) in New Mexico.

Rusty received the Vietnam Campaign Ribbon for his service.

Rusty's most meaningful experiences are the camaraderie and friendships that were established during his service. He remains in touch with many of these friends today. When Rusty returned state-side, he and others, were advised to not wear their uniforms because the Vietnam War was unpopular at home. However, Rusty said the appreciation these veterans receive today is great.

The majority of Rusty's civilian career was spent in auto, boat, and insurance sales as well as home construction. During the 1980's, the Clevenger's moved to Missouri. Rusty worked maintaining the grounds at Camp Wonderland. The camp's mission is to provide a fun, educational camp experience for children, teenagers and adults who have disabilities.

Rusty is a past Commander and executive board member for both American Veterans (AMVETS) and the American Legion. As part of the American Legion, Rusty was invited to join the 40/8 which supports nurses training. Rusty is still actively involved in both these organizations.

Rusty is the second generation in his family to serve in the Air Force. Rusty's father was an Army Air Corps B17 bomber pilot in World War II and was shot down over Africa. He was missing in action for three months. Rusty met his wife, Mary Ann, while stationed at Cannon AFB in New Mexico. Together they have two daughters. One of their daughters is the third generation to serve in the Air Force.

Rock Island Daughters are proud to nominate Everett "Rusty" Clevenger as Patriot of the Month and extend their gratitude for his patriotic service and commitment to our great nation.