

# Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution Proudly Honors



## Patriot of the Month March 2017



**Patrick  
McFarland**  
United States Navy

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Ozark Spring  
Chapter

Patrick McFarland is an amazing person. Although he is almost 94 years old, he still loves to travel, and in recent months, has visited a grandson in California, and made a trip with his daughter to New Orleans. He lives in an assisted living home and seems happy with his life there.

Patrick's parents died when he was quite young, and he grew up with an older brother. They grew cotton, and as a young man, he worked long hours in the cotton fields. He wanted to enlist in the United States Navy, but since he did not have parents to sign for him, he had to wait until he was 18. He also worked in a Civilian Conservation Corps camp. After a very brief courtship, he and his wife married. Although she was living in Missouri, they married in Arkansas because there was no waiting period in that state. They were married 73 years and had three daughters.

Patrick settled his family in California while he was on duty in the Pacific. During the invasion of Okinawa, he served on a transport ship which had large freezer space that was used to bring deceased Americans back to the states. Their ship was accompanied by destroyers. One event he remembers well is that one of the destroyers beside his transport ship was hit by a kamikaze.

After returning from duty in Japan, he was sent to the Great Lakes for two years, where he attended cooks and bakers school. He was then transferred to Guam where he was in charge of a bakery

which supplied bread not only for forces on Guam, but for ships sailing the Pacific. He had 49 Philippine assistants. His next assignment was on a tanker to Vietnam.

After Patrick had spent 20 years in the Navy, he and his wife settled in California. He worked as a plumber, helped build a school, drove a dump truck, and worked as a school custodian. He served as head custodian for one of the local schools. The McFarlands were visited by a friend with an empty moving van headed back to Missouri. At that time, Patrick decided he wanted to return to the midwest. They loaded their household items into the van and moved back to Missouri, where he operated a café and farmed.

Patrick's picture was taken in front of a quilt honoring his service.

Ozark Spring Daughters are proud to honor and recognize Patrick McFarland as Patriot of the Month for his service and patriotism to our great nation.