

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution  
Proudly Honor



Patriot of the Month

August 2017



**Elmo L. Moss**

United States Navy

Sponsored by:  
Hannibal Heritage  
Chapter

Elmo was born in Missouri. His family moved to Texas, where he attended 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades. He majored in art at Southern Methodist University and graduated in 1938 with a degree in Fine Arts and Languages, having studied Spanish, Italian, Latin, and German. After college he rode freight trains across country and ended up on a fishing schooner at Gloucester, Massachusetts.

Elmo entered the United States Naval Reserve at St. Louis, Missouri, in December 1940. After completing flight training in Pensacola, Florida, in October 1941, he then served on the *USS Brooklyn (CL-40)*, *USS Philadelphia (CL-41)*, and *USS Savannah (CL-42)* as a naval aviator.

In the early part of World War II, he was involved in taking convoys to England, flying anti-submarine patrol. On one occasion he could not find his convoy, flying until he could pick up them up. He participated in amphibious landings in Casa Blanca, North Africa; Salerno, Italy; Anzio, Italy; and Southern France. He flew paratroopers and supplies to North Atlantic Treaty Organization bases in Europe from France. On one special mission he was stuck in Tehran,

Iran, for two weeks until he could get parts for airplane repairs. In the 1950s he was at Thule, Greenland, flying patrol bombers as a part of the Distant Early Warning Line. During Vietnam, he flew Hercules transports mainly to Japan.

In his military career, he has been all over the world, in addition to those already listed Korea, Spain, Greece, Corsica, Newfoundland, and Kodiak, Alaska. He was a flight school instructor at Ottumwa, Iowa, Corpus Christi, Texas, and Newport, Rhode Island.

He used his language skills and his art skills in the service, providing art work for parties and painting on the noses of airplanes. He received the Distinguished Flying Cross with 2 stars, Air Medal, and service ribbons for the United States, European, and North African theaters.

Upon retirement in Jul, 1969, from Naval Air Station, Lakehurst, New Jersey, Elmo returned to Missouri. He personally assisted his contractor brother-in-law in building his home in 1972-1973. He is a very active member of his local Arts Council and has participated in the Annual Autumn Historic Folklife Festival since its beginning in 1976. He was on the very first Honor Flight. He married Norma in 1942 and was married for 54 years until her death in 1996. He has six children, three grandchildren and one great-grandson. He has been traveling the world for the last 20 years with his dear friend and companion, Kathryn. They have been to Portugal and Spain, China, Japan, Australia and New Zealand, South America, Scandinavia, Ireland, and Scotland. Still very active and sharp, he recalls his military service "to the best of my 100 year old memory."

Hannibal Heritage Daughters are very proud and honored to recognize Elmo Leonard Moss as Patriot of the Month for his patriotic and dedicated service to our great nation.