

# John Clark

U.S. Air Force, Retired

## Honoring Veterans — Restoring Lives

A retired Colonel in the U.S. Air Force, John Clark's 30 years of distinguished service were highlighted by a career during which he earned numerous medals, commendations and citations including the Silver Star and two Purple Hearts. A Columbia native, Clark was commissioned through the Air Force ROTC program at Mizzou where he earned a degree in mechanical engineering. He went on to earn his pilot wings a year later. After duty flying aeromedical evacuation, he attended combat crew training in South Carolina. Clark then went to England flying the RF-4C and then on to Thailand for active duty during the Vietnam War. While there, he successfully flew more than sixty missions over North Vietnam.

In March of 1967, Clark's plane was downed in North Vietnam and Clark was immediately captured and taken as a prisoner of war, where he remained for almost 6 years. He was released during Operation Homecoming in February of 1973. After recovering from his injuries, Clark went back to college at Mizzou, earned a Master's Degree in Business, and later served as T-38 flight commander and instructor in Oklahoma before leaving active duty. He served the Missouri Air National Guard and the Air Force Reserve before retiring from the military in 1992. He retired in 2000 from his civilian role as Water Engineer for the City of Columbia.

Clark has a deep appreciation for his freedom as an American and never takes it for granted. Active with The American Ex-Prisoners of War organization, he works to raise community awareness of the support needed for Veterans. He is a driving influence and strong advocate for the mission of Welcome Home.

He says his favorite place to be in Columbia is with his wife, Anne.



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