



## **Veteran of the Month December 2008**

### **Congratulations to James "Jim" W. Savage!**

In partnership with the Veterans Coordination Commission, we are pleased to present the December 2008 Veteran of the Month Recognition to James "Jim" W. Savage.

Jim grew up in a large family in Whitesboro, Texas and entered the United States Air Force in 1946 where he remained until his retirement as a Master Sergeant in August, 1966. Jim's military career was spent flying in B-17's, B-25's, B-29's, B-50's and B-52's. His overall career spanned over eighteen years as an Airborne Radio Operator, ECM Operator, and Gunner in these different aircrafts. He accumulated over 6,500 flying hours and received the Senior Enlisted Aircrew wings with wreath and star. Jim's greatest accomplishment was being on the crew that was on a world record flight on June 6-7, 1962, flying non-stop in a closed course for 11,303 miles without refueling. Jim served in a very rewarding career flying many missions, plus nine combat missions in the B-52.

During Jim's military career, he received many awards including the following: Air Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, Combat Readiness Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal w/5 Bronze Loops, Air Force Good Conduct Medal, World War II Victory Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal and Air Force Longevity Service Award Ribbon w/4 Oak Leaf Clusters.

After his career in the United States Air Force, Jim attended and graduated from the University of Nebraska in 1967. He then worked for the FDIC as a federal bank examiner for eighteen years, retiring in 1985. Since his retirement, Jim has become a Life Member of the Air Force Association, AF Gunner's Association, AF Sergeants Association in which he served as President and Treasurer. The American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, National Association of the Unformed Services, Non-Commissioned Officers Association, the VFW, 7th Bomb Wing B-36 Association, TREA and the 40 & 8. Currently Jim is the Grand Chef de Care of South Dakota (State Commander) of the 40 & 8. He also belongs to the Elk, Moose, Masons and Shrine. Jim was President of the EAFB Retirees Council and editor of the Base newsletter for over four years. He has held various offices in TREA in addition to serving on the Honor Guard for TREA.

Jim has volunteered to drive the DAV van for over four years and volunteered over 3,400 hours to the VA. He is dedicated to the military establishment in thought and deed and enthusiastically supports and participates in military affairs that affect the military community. He is married to Elaine Warner, his wife of four years and between them they have six children and thirteen grandchildren.