

Veteran of the Month March 2010

Congratulations to Ralph L. Hadley!



In partnership with the Veterans Coordination Commission, we are pleased to present the March 2010 Veteran of the Month Recognition to Ralph L. Hadley.

Ralph L. Hadley entered the Air Force National Guard in 1960 and the United States Air Force in August, 1962. After training, he served as a heavy equipment operator at a number of bases, included a tour in Thailand. In 1965, Ralph was discharged from the Air Force and later re-enlisted in June, 1968. He received schooling as a communication equipment technician and served as a crew member in the Airborne Command Post. He was assigned to several bases in the United States and England. He retired in January 1985 as a Staff Sergeant while stationed at Ellsworth Air Force Base.

Mr. Hadley's awards and decorations include Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award w/2 Oak Leaf Clusters, Air Force Good conduct Medal w/4 Oak Leaf Clusters, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Air Force Overseas Long Tour Ribbon, Air Force Longevity Service Award Ribbon w/4 Oak Leaf Clusters, and Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal. Ralph qualified to wear the Enlisted Aircrew badge and the Missile badge as a member of the flying crew on EC-121's and the EC-136 aircraft. His most memorable moments were being assigned as a crew member and participating in the Looking Glass flying command post operations and enjoying pulling alerts at bases that accommodated the EC-135 flying command posts.

In 1985, Ralph married Beverly J. Hansen and became a stepfather to four children. After retiring from the Air Force Ralph was employed by the South Dakota Cement Plant until he was forced to retire due to his health. Ralph and Betty moved to New York and later Houston before returning to Rapid City in 2007. Ralph is a member of TREA and actively supports their efforts at every chance. He served his country with honor and integrity. His willingness to support the United States Air Force is indicative of his accomplishments toward his family, state and city.