

A Salute to Bob Klatt U.S. Army - Vietnam

Presented by
Pearson Wood, 2nd Vice Commander
American Legion Post 67
Cary, North Carolina
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Robert A. Klatt was born September 29, 1946, at Albion, New York (near Niagara Falls). He has seven brothers and one sister. His father was an infantry soldier during World War II, was wounded at the Battle of the Bulge and earned a Purple Heart. His father also was an active member of the American Legion. Three of Bob's brothers are veterans and have held many offices at their American Legion posts.

Bob went to grade school and high school at Albion, graduating from high school in 1965. He then went to college for one year, became restless and decided to join the military.

Bob volunteered for the Army in 1967 for a three year hitch at age 19. After basic training at Fort Dix, New Jersey, he went to Vietnam for one year as a photographer. While in Vietnam he was assigned to the Combat Engineers who were responsible for clearing land in the jungle for fighter aircraft to land. His photos were used by the Army for construction progress reports and after-action reports. Much of his time was spent flying into areas in the Mekong Delta after attacks on Army bases, blown bridges, and roads. He mostly photographed property damage and equipment destruction. The photo lab Bob used was a military-issued Army Conex (square metal shipping container) designed for portable, dark proof, black & white processing and printing.



After his Vietnam duty Bob was assigned to teach new recruits at the Army School of Still Photography at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey.

Bob's Army service earned him the Army Commendation Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, and the Army Good Conduct Medal. He attained the rank of Sergeant and was discharged from the Army in September, 1970, hav-

ing completed his enlistment period.

Vietnam veterans have a special way of greeting each other when they meet, by saying, "Welcome Home". Bob has always felt welcome by the Post 67 members.

Bob was eligible for the GI Bill of Rights, he eagerly attended the Rochester Institute of Technology and earned a degree in Professional Photographic Illustrations.

After his college graduation, Bob worked in marketing for the Eastman Kodak Company. He traveled around the world facilitating trade shows and conventions. After 17 years, he started his own company directing trade shows and conventions for small businesses. He sold his company and retired in 2002 at 56 years of age.

Bob has been an American Legion member for 20 years. He helped build this Post 67 home working Saturday mornings over the last few years. Upon building completion, he wrote the initial rental agreements and the Post Home Guidelines. He served as Social Chairman, then as 2nd Vice Commander. Bob got me started on writing these member salute biographies.

Bob's two children and their families live near Charlotte, NC. He misses his three and one half grandchildren and is looking forward to moving near them upon selling his home here in Cary. We will greatly miss him at Post 67.

Bob Klatt, The American Legion Post 67, Cary, North Carolina, salutes you for your service to God and country!

