

Getting to Know You

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I was born July 29, 1947. My father was a WWII veteran serving in Germany. I have one younger sister still living in Haw River, NC, where I grew up.

I graduated in 1965 from Eastern Alamance High School in Mebane, NC. After graduation I worked for the city of Burlington as a surveyor assistant. In May of 1966 I enlisted in the Army which later qualified me for G.I. college benefits. After Basic Training in Fort Jackson, SC, I went to Fort Sill, OK, to train for artillery survey. After attending the NCO Academy, I was sent to Germany in the same area where my father had served.

After almost eighteen months in Germany I was ordered to Vietnam where I saw lots of country from north of Dak To to south of Saigon and into areas west of Pleiku. While in Vietnam my survey section was assigned to Division Artillery for a special project to synchronize map coordinates to U.S. Geodetic survey points throughout South Vietnam. Shortly after finishing that project I was injured by a trip flare while setting up a firebase perimeter. This got me recuperation time in Japan and Guam.

On returning to my unit I learned that the Sergeant who was my section chief in Germany had been brought in as my replacement, so I was assigned to S-2 to coordinate

support for LRRPs (Long Range Reconnaissance Patrols). My duties included flying to Green Beret "A Team" camps to train "Mountain yards" on 105 howitzers, register our artillery batteries when they were moved for "hip-shoots", and coordinate offensive operations. Because much of this work was done in helicopter or fixed-wing aircraft, sometimes under fire, I earned an Air Combat Medal and an Army Commendation Medal.

I was discharged in May 1969, married in June, and started at N C State that September, graduating in May of 1973. My first child (daughter) was born in June of 1973 and a son was born June 1975. I went to work with the Raleigh School System in 1973-1983.

In 1983 I married my second wife Janet who had one son. I worked with Cameron & Barkley, an industrial supply company, and in 1987 moved to Shopsmith as an instructor and manager until 1992. In August of that year I became a teacher in the Wake County Public School system until retiring in 2007.

Janet and I have two sons and a daughter and four granddaughters. This October we will celebrate our 25th anniversary.

Pete Stewart