

ALL GAVE SOME; SOME GAVE ALL

This week's veteran is Bill Williams.

Bill signed up to join the Marines at St. Joseph, MO, while attending the Apple Blossom Festival in that city in May of 1952. Upon graduating from Bethany High School in Bethany, MO, on May 6, 1952, he went into the Marines. Bethany, MO, is located in northwest Missouri on Interstate 35 halfway between Kansas City, MO, and Des Moines, IA.

After completing ten weeks of basic training at San Diego, CA, Bill was sent to Camp Pendleton, CA, for advanced training which he completed in December of 1952. While at Camp Pendleton, he was assigned to A Company, 1st Battalion, 1st Infantry. In December of 1952, Bill went to Korea landing at Inchon. He was part of the 1st Combat Service Group that transported troops and supplies during the Korean War. The Korean War is sometimes called the "The Forgotten War". With 54,246 soldiers losing their lives worldwide during the Korean War of which 33,246 of those died in Korea, we cannot forget.

One evening while changing a dual wheel on a truck in the mud, Bill ruptured a disk in his back causing paralysis from the waist down. He flew via helicopter, as seen on the television show, MASH, to the hospital ship, *USS Haven*, anchored in Inchon Harbor. After seven weeks aboard the *USS Haven*, Bill was sent to the hospital on Treasure Island, San Francisco, CA, where he remained for three months. Bill gradually recovered, but his back has been a constant source of pain since his injury. He was discharged from active service in April of 1954.

After returning home, Bill worked for the Bureau of Customs and later Frank Daniel's Lumber, both in Kansas City, MO. At a dance in Bethany, MO, in the spring of 1955, he met Marian Cooper. It didn't take very long for them to decide that they loved each other because six weeks later, on May 6, 1955, they were married. They were married 53 years until Marian's death on June 30, 2008. They had four children: Mike, Donna, Lori, Pat, eight grandchildren, and ten great-grandchildren. Granddaughter, Casey, died October 30, 2009.

In 1959, he moved to Quincy, IL, to work for Quincy Farm Supply. In 1966, Joe Simpkins of St. Louis purchased the Trulock Farm Store in Assumption. Hearing good things about Bill and his work in Quincy, Frank hired him to be manager of Trulock's. Bill opened Taylorville Town and Country in 1972 and operated it until 1976 when he went to work for Mayrath Industries. After thirteen years with Mayrath, Bill worked for GSI until 2008.

Bill is the recipient of many medals for his Korean War service including one from the South Korean government and one from the State of Missouri.

Thank you, Corporal Bill Williams, for what you gave for us.