

ALL GAVE SOME; SOME GAVE ALL

Today is the first in the series of articles about veterans from Assumption that the Veterans Memorial Committee would like to highlight each week. This week's veteran is Bob Brackett.

Bob joined the United States Marine Corps in June of 1944 after graduating from Assumption High School in May 1944. After completing his basic training in the United States, he was sent to Guadalcanal in January 1945. He was attached to the 6th Marine Division, 4th Regiment, B Company, 3rd Squad. The 6th Marines was a new Division that had been activated in May of 1944 on Guadalcanal.

The 6th Marine Division landed on the west beaches of Okinawa on Easter Sunday, June 1, 1945 which was the start of the Battle of Okinawa lasting until mid June of 1945, 82 days. The casualty figures for the Battle of Okinawa were over 100,000 Japanese, 60,000 Allies, and over 150,000 civilians making it the bloodiest battle in the Pacific Theater during WW II. The 6th Division is credited with taking the majority of the island of Okinawa.

Wounded in May of 1945, Bob was sent to Guam for two months and then to the hospital on Mare Island near San Francisco. He was discharged in May of 1947. PFC Robert Brackett received the Purple Heart and the Combat Action Ribbon.

After discharge, Bob graduated from Sparks Business College in Shelbyville. He was bookkeeper for Shelby FS in Shelbyville for 10 years, Assumption Oil Company for three years, and the Assumption Co-Op Grain Elevator for 17 years. For many years, he also prepared income tax returns.

He has been a member of American Legion Post 0284 for 42 years. Other activities have included being a Sunday School teacher at the Assumption Christian Church and serving on the Assumption City Council. His hobbies are woodworking, reading, and working jigsaw puzzles.

Bob has been married to Leah (Jones) Brackett for 66 years. They have three children, six grandchildren, three step-grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, and seven step-great-grandchildren.

Thank you, PFC Robert Brackett, for what you gave for us.