

## ALL GAVE SOME; SOME GAVE ALL

This week's veteran is Ron Clutter.

In November of 1966, Ron, along with Richard Francisco, was drafted into the U. S. Army. He had graduated from Assumption High School in 1962, was 22 years old, married, and working for the Mueller Company in Decatur. Ron and Kay Bantner had been married July 1964.

Ron was sent to Fort Leonard Wood for basic training. Especially, since it was winter, he was fortunate not to have to go with his unit to the field because he was on KP duty. The food was prepared and taken to the field, so he did not sleep in the field.

Ron received his AIT training at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, as a plumber. Although his MOS was plumber, he did very little plumbing while in the Army. He spent most of his time as a warehouse worker.

After being sent to Vietnam July 1967, Ron was assigned to the 93rd Engineers Battalion, Long Binh, and stationed at a building supply warehouse near the Bearcat Base. He filled orders for supplies. Nearing his time to go home, the Army asked him to extend for three weeks to help establish a warehouse at a new base in the Mekong Delta. He would be rewarded by being discharged three months early. He accepted but later wondered why. Although his warehouse at Long Binh was occasionally under mortar attack, the new warehouse was fired on by mortars every night. The extension didn't help him because the Army decided to let all soldiers out three months early. The thing that he remembers most about Vietnam was the everyday rains from April until November.

Ron was discharged August 1968. He received the Vietnam Service, Merit, and National Defense Metals.

Returning home, Ron returned to work for Mueller. When he retired in 2006, he had been with the Mueller Company for 42.5 years. He feels fortunate to never be laid off during those 42.5 years. Ron and Kay have one daughter, Kelly. She teaches chemistry and physics to juniors and seniors in the Naperville, Illinois, school district.

Thank you, Specialist 4 Ronald Lee Clutter, for what you gave for us.