

ALL GAVE SOME; SOME GAVE ALL

This week's veteran is Don Shuck.

Don enlisted in the Air Force in May of 1956. He went from Taylorville to St. Louis by train where he was inducted into the Air Force. From St. Louis, he was sent to Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas, for twelve weeks of basic training. During Don's third week of basic training, the drill sergeant asked if any of them knew how to drive a truck and operate a loader. Being familiar with both, Don raised his hand. The truck was a wheelbarrow and the loader was a shovel. He spent the next three days moving dirt with a wheelbarrow. That was the last time he volunteered for anything. From Lackland he was assigned to Sheppard Air Force Base, Wichita Falls, Texas, for training as an aircraft and engine mechanic. After completing his training, he was sent to Guam for eighteen months.

In Guam, Don was assigned to the 54th Weather Reconnaissance Squadron as an aircraft mechanic. For their mission, they used the WB-50, a modified B-50 bomber used for weather reconnaissance. The B-50 evolved from the B-29 of WW II fame, but it was a much better airplane. It was the last propeller-driven bomber built by Boeing. On every seventh mission, Don was the onboard mechanic. Three times he was on special missions to the Philippines. After completing his tour on Guam, he was sent to Otis Air Force Base in Massachusetts. While at Otis, he was a mechanic for the EC-121 Warning Star, a military version of the Lockheed Constellation. The EC-121 was equipped with radar and was used as an airborne early warning system. After two years with the 551st Early Warning Squadron at Otis, Don was discharged in May of 1960, completing four years in the Air Force.

Don returned to Assumption and worked for Radford Grain before he started farming and working for Caterpillar in Decatur. Since retiring from Caterpillar in 1998, after 29 years, he has continued to farm. Don is married to Rosalie Smallwood Shuck. They have three children: Dirk, Dena, and Deidre, eight grandchildren, and fifteen great-grandchildren.

Thank you, Airman Second Class Donald L. Shuck, for what you gave for us.

Date to remember:

May 26, 2013: VFW Ladies Auxiliary dinner and gun raffle. Gun raffle tickets may be purchased from any Veteran's committee member.

Note cards with a picture of the proposed Memorial are available for purchase at Wash House Equipment.

Please view our web site: assumptionveteransmemorial.com. Mike Connolly has worked hard to give us a great site. Please check the list of names that we have to date for corrections and additions. Thank you.