

ALL GAVE SOME; SOME GAVE ALL

This week's veteran is Bob Ludwig.

Bob started his Navy career at boot camp in Orlando, FL, in 1988. His next stops were: Hospital Corps School, Great Lakes, IL; Surgical Technician Training Program, Portsmouth, VA; Field Medical Service School(U. S. Marines), Camp Johnson, NC; U. S. Marines 1st Medical Battalion, Pendleton, CA; Operation Desert Storm Surgical Support Kilo Company, 1st Medical Battalion, Saudi Arabia; U. S. Navy Hospital, Camp Lejeune, NC, where he completed his four years of active duty. He was transferred to the U. S. Naval Reserve Center, Decatur, IL, for four years of active reserve.

Bob recalls, "While serving in Desert Storm, we were the northernmost Surgical Support Company comprised of multiple units pulled together to form a large unit. We were located approximately five miles from the Kuwait border in Saudi Arabia. We were receiving heavy casualties, mostly Iraqi soldiers. We had three surgeries going on in our operating suite when Marine guards came into the room to forcefully remove a gentleman who was posing as a Kuwaiti medical student. The person was actually a Republican Guard Officer with many years experience including the Iran/Iraq War. Interestingly enough, the other Iraqi prisoner patients were the ones who alerted us as to the person's identity."

Bob received the following awards: National Defense Medal, Navy Fleet Marine Force Ribbon, Southwest Asia Service Medal with one bronze star and Fleet Marine Device, Kuwait Liberation Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Naval Reserve Meritorious Service Medal, Saudi Arabian Medal for the Liberation of Kuwait, and the Combat Action Ribbon.

After completion of active duty, Bob went to work at St. Johns Hospital, Springfield, IL, in the surgical department. While at St. Johns, he met the,"Love of his life", nursing student Heather Hiler Ludwig. After marrying, they worked in Champaign, IL, but upon the birth of their twin sons, Caleb and Zachary, they decided they needed to be closer to their family support system, so they moved to Assumption. They also have another son Ashton. Bob received a nursing degree from St. Johns and has completed the Nurse Anesthesia Program at Decatur Memorial where he works as a Nurse Anesthetist.

Thank you, Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class (E-5) Robert G. Ludwig, for what you gave for us.