

ALL GAVE SOME; SOME GAVE ALL

This week's veteran is Roy Campbell.

Roy was drafted into the United States Marine Corps in December of 1951, and was sent to the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, CA. The mission of the base is to: "Provide Reception, processing, and recruit training for male enlisted personnel following initial entry into the Marine Corps." His next stop was Camp Pendleton, CA for field training. From Pendleton, Roy was shipped to Hawaii where he joined the 1st Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company at Camp Catlin. He trained on Kahoolawe Island, an island near Maui used as a bombing range, as a radio operator for a forward observation group that would direct naval guns on targets on land. During his stay at Camp Catlin, he also worked as the base tailor. Roy's wife, Essa, was able to be with him for most of his stay in Hawaii. He was discharged at Treasure Island, San Francisco, CA., in November of 1953. Roy was proud to be able to say that he was a Marine.

Roy's relationship with my family goes back to the late 1940s when he worked for my dad on the farm. He would live with us during the busy seasons. When he became old enough, he went to work in the mine at Kincaid, IL. After being discharged from the Marines, Roy came back to work for my dad before taking a job at Macon Arms in Decatur. When Macon Arms closed, he worked construction before operating the Shell Station in Assumption with Jerald "Smiley" Ryan. Roy and Smiley later bought the Deep Rock Station which Roy continued to operate for many years. He was one of Assumption's most successful businesspersons during those years who had a reputation for being a "straight shooter" who would tell you like it is.

Roy married Essa Patterson Campbell in 1949. They have one daughter, Vanessa, two grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. Roy died in 1999.

One of the high-points of my childhood was when Roy and Smiley Ryan invited my dad, Ross Kaiser, Roy's paper boy, and me to go with them to St. Louis to see the Brooklyn Dodgers play the Cardinals in June of 1950. Players that I saw that night were: Jackie Robinson, Roy Campanella, Duke Snider, and Gil Hodges with Don Newcombe pitching for the Dodgers, and Stan Musial, Red Schoendienst, Marty Marion, and Enos Slaughter for the Cardinals. As everyone remembers, Roy was a "Die Hard" Cub fan. Because of him, I am one. Roy, the Cubs still haven't won the pennant. As you would say, "It's a bad old deal."

Thank you, Corporal Roy Gene Campbell, for what you gave for us.

Jim Bugg

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.

Please view our web site: assumptionveteransmemorial.com.