

ALL GAVE SOME; SOME GAVE ALL

This week's veteran is Brian Pinkston.

Brian is the son of Bill and Sue Pinkston. He attended Pana High School graduating in May 1987. In June of 1987, he enlisted in the Air Force. After receiving his basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas, he was sent to Electronic Engineering School at Lowry Air Force Base in Colorado from September 1987 to December 1989.

Upon completing electronic school, he was sent to McChord Air Force Base in Washington, remaining there until December 1989. He worked on the weapons systems of F-15s. His next stop was Seymour Johnson AFB, North Carolina, staying there until September 1993. While at Seymour Johnson, he worked on the weapons systems of the F-15E Strike Eagle. From September of 1993 until September of 1994, he was stationed at Osan AFB, South Korea. He maintained the weapon systems of the A-10 Warthog. After his one year tour of duty at Osan was finished, Brian returned to Seymour Johnson AFB, North Carolina. In September 1998, he was part of an Air Force group that was sent to Dayton T. Brown Engineering Company, New York, to develop a bomb rack for the F-15. His last duty was Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska. Brian was at Eielson serving as a weapons systems person for the A-10 and A-16 until his retirement in June 2007.

During Brian's twenty years in the Air Force, he had three combat tours. From December of 1990 to September of 1991 he was in Saudi Arabia, where he participated in Desert Storm. He returned to the area in September of 1995 being stationed in Kuwait as part of the Liberation of Kuwait. He was in Iraq from January 2004 until September 2004 serving as safety officer, whose job it was to investigate causes of casualties. It was not pleasant duty.

During his time in the Air Force, he was in 45 states and 17 countries. Brian was the recipient of seven Meritorious Service Medals, five Commendation Medals, and four Achievement Medals. He received an Associates Degree in electronics and a Bachelors Degree in business.

At present, he is completing a Masters Degree in counseling. Brian owns the family farm in Assumption and leases a farm near Mt. Zion. He raises cattle on both farms. His dream is to turn the Assumption farm into a place for disadvantaged children to develop social skills. Brian is especially interested in equine therapy. At the present, he is working for the Community Improvement Health Center in Decatur. He spends time in the Urbana, IL, schools where C. H. I. C. has a contract to supply counselors.

Thank you, Technical Sergeant Brian Pinkston, for what you gave for us