

This week's veteran is jesse W. (Buck) Schmahl.

Buck lived one block west of the Assumption Coop Elevator until he was six years old. His Dad helped Wayne Adcock on the farm. When he was six, his family moved to Macon where his dad started farming. Buck graduated from Macon High School in 1966. On June 1, 1967, his dad's birthday, he traveled by train from Decatur to St. Louis to be inducted into the Army. He was sent to Fort Leonard Wood for basic training. At the basic training graduation ceremony, his girlfriend's father, Herb Jackson, had a conversation with Buck's Sergeant Major about WW II. Buck believes that conversation was instrumental in his being one of four out of 120 receiving orders to report to Fort Gordon, GA, for signal school rather than Fort Polk, LA, for shipment to Vietnam as an infantryman. While at Fort Gordon, he processed individuals into different companies. When on leave at Thanksgiving in 1967, Louise Jackson and Buck got engaged.

On May 3, 1968, Buck arrived at Qui Nhon, Vietnam. He was a clerk in charge of records for the 86<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Battalion for a couple of months and then helped the South Vietnamese build a four-foot high stone wall around his unit's barracks. During his last six months in Vietnam, he was in charge of two trucks and four men supplying food rations to three companies, 400 people. One day they had just crossed a bridge on their twenty-mile trip for rations when it was accidentally destroyed by South Vietnamese friendly fire. They used Chinook helicopters to get food until a makeshift bridge was erected.

Buck was discharged early, February, 1969, in time for spring planting because he was engaged in farming. Louise and Buck were married May 10, 1969, and God has blessed them with two children, John (Amy Seifert) and Karen (David Nash). They have four grandchildren: Rebekah and Jacob Nash, Naomi and Noah Schmahl.

Buck says, "I feel privileged to have served my country".

Thank you, Specialist 4 Jesse W. Schmahl, 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](http://assumptionveteransmemorial.com). Please check the list of names that we have to date for corrections and additions. Thank you.