

ALL GAVE SOME; SOME GAVE ALL

This week's veteran is Bob DeBrun.

Bob graduated from Assumption High School May 1950. He enlisted in the Army in the fall of 1950 with his friend Harold Letterly and was sent to Fort Riley, Kansas, for basic training. After basic training he was sent to Korea to join the 1st Cavalry.

The following Commendation for Heroism was received by Bob for service in Korea:

“Sergeant Robert L. DeBrun (then Corporal) RA17279534, Infantry, United States Army, Company A, 8th Cavalry Regiment , 1st Cavalry Division, for heroism in action against the enemy on 3 July 1951, near Chung-myon, Korea. While the platoon was patrolling an area in front of the battalion's position, it was ambushed by a numerically superior enemy force. As the platoon withdrew, it was observed that a wounded man and three comrades had been trapped by the enemy. Without hesitation, Sergeant DeBrun, with three companions, volunteered to move forward and assist the encircled men. On locating the wounded man, they hastily applied medical aid and moved him to the platoon perimeter. Again returning to the area devastated by enemy fire, they made repeated efforts to rescue the remaining three men. The enemy again threatened to envelop the platoon and the party was ordered to withdraw. Sergeant DeBrun then acted as rear guard for the withdrawal. His heroism reflects great credit on himself and the military service. Entered federal service from Illinois.”

It was at about this time that Bob received his leg injury that plagued him with pain the rest of his life. While trying to rescue injured soldiers, he was hit by shrapnel from an exploding grenade. He was sent to the military hospital in Battle Creek, Michigan, for recovery. Even though he suffered from pain, he never complained.

When he separated from the Army, he worked in Chicago with his good friend Don Berry as a member of Local 150 of the Operating Engineers operating heavy equipment. After about two years, Bob returned to Assumption. He was owner/operator of DeBrun Asphalt Company for many years. He also owned the coal yard in Assumption. Remember the Clean Coal Yard news column written by Wayne Brownback for the Golden Prairie News?

Bob was a very civic-minded citizen of Assumption, always there to help the school or city in any way possible. He had season tickets to the Cardinal games. He would offer them to the school as a prize in essay contests. He would personally read the essays to decide the winner.

Anyone who lived in Assumption remembers the good-natured rivalry between Bob and Cub fan, Jim Tankersley. Their businesses were across the street from one another. Bob always had a Cardinal in his window and Jim a Cubby Bear in his. Who can forget the time they painted red and blue lines down the middle of the street between their establishments.

Bob has two daughters, Julie and Jill, six grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Thank you, Sergeant Robert DeBrun, for what you gave for us.