

This week's veteran is Mick Henn.

Mick has the honor of having played guard and defensive end on one of the best Assumption High football teams ever, the 8-1 1957 Comets. After graduating high school in 1959, Mick went to work for Wagner Castings in Decatur. Because of a downturn in the economy, Mick was laid off about a year later. Mick enlisted in the Navy and embarked for Great Lakes Training Center on Memorial Day, 1961.

Mick stayed at Great Lakes after finishing basic training working in base security. His next assignment was the Naval Air Station Cubi Point at the edge of Subic Bay, Philippines, where he worked for special services. Cubi Point was constructed by moving half of a mountain into Subic Bay to form a runway 10,000 feet long. The amount of dirt moved was equivalent to building the Panama Canal. While in the Philippines, he was able to satisfy his love of football by playing on the base flag football team. Some weekends, base personnel would go out on maneuvers in the jungle with the Marines. While in the Philippines, he met classmates; Marines Charles Creamer and Jack Rever.

After a year, he came back to the States and was assigned to the *USS King*, DLG 10 Guided Missile Frigate. In 1975, the *USS King* was reclassified as a guided missile destroyer, DDG 41. She was decommissioned in 1991 and sold for scrap in 1994. The *USS King* went into dry dock at Long Beach soon after Mick boarded her. He spent his time cleaning, scraping, etc., making the her ready to return to sea. After being refurbished, *King* operated along the coast honing her fighting skills in preparation for her next mission. In April 1965, *King* left San Diego for duty in the South China Sea.

Because his remaining enlistment time was too short to go with the King or for an another tour of duty, Mick was discharged April 1965. He returned to Assumption and was hired again by Wagner's Castings. He stayed at Wagner's for a few months before being hired at Caterpillar, where he worked for 31 years.

Mick married Chiquita Wicker in 1976. They have four children, twelve grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. Chiquita and Mick cared for foster children for twenty years.

Thank you, Seaman Michael W. Henn, for what you gave for us.