

ALL GAVE SOME; SOME GAVE ALL

This week's veteran is Jerit Medler.

Jerit graduated from Assumption High School in 1970. His graduating class was the first to graduate from the new high school, the current Central A & M Middle School. After graduation, he went to work for Firestone in Decatur. Jerit was drafted with a lottery number of 61 in September of 1972 which was the last year the draft was used. In the latter days of the draft, draftees were assigned a draft number by lottery, 1 to 365, based on their birthday. Jerit's assignments were Fort Leonard Wood, MO; Fort Rucker, AL; Rhine Mein AFB, Frankfurt, Germany; and Fort Campbell, KY. After serving in the Army for two years, 1972 to 1974, he joined the Illinois National Guard in 1976. He was in the National Guard for twelve years serving as crew chief on a UH1 Helicopter. High lights of his National Guard duty were flying security for President Ford when he visited Springfield, IL, in 1976 and flying Casper Weinberger, Secretary of Defense under President Ronald Reagan, from the Gateway Arch to the Airport in St. Louis.

The following awards were given to Jerit: National Defense Medal; Army Service Medal; Meritorious Service Medal; Overseas Service Ribbon; NCO Professional Development Ribbon; Senior Crew Wings; Air Assault Badge; U. S. Freedom Salute Award; Expert Qualification with 38 caliber Pistol, M-16 Rifle, and M-60 Machine Gun.

Upon returning from active duty, Jerit went back to work at Firestone until 1994. In July 2012, he retired from the Assumption Police Force after serving for 25 years. He is very proud of the 25 years that he spent as assistant football coach, Assumption ten years and Central A & M 15 years. He was the defensive coordinator of the 1997 Central A & M football team that won the State 2A Title. He is currently employed at the International Paper Company in Shelbyville.

Jerit is married to Cindy Howse Medler. They have two children, Amy and Mike, and six grandchildren. Mike is also a veteran.

Thank you, Staff Sergeant(E 6) Jerit E. Medler, for what you gave for us.