

ALL GAVE SOME; SOME GAVE ALL

This week's veteran is Richard A. Morrow

Richard was raised about eight miles south-east of Assumption on the Dunkel-Hinton road. He was the oldest of nine—the son of the late Gerald A. and Mary E.(Huff) Morrow. They were farmers. He lost his Mother to cancer when he was about 12 1/2 years old.

He attended rural Shelby County Elementary schools and graduated high school from Assumption in 1957. After a year at P. R. Mallory Co., in Pana, he was laid off on a Friday, saw the Air Force recruiter on Monday and was “shipped out” to basic training at Lackland Air Force Base (AFB) the next Wednesday. After basic training he was sent to Keesler AFB at Biloxi, MS for technical training in the Aircraft Control and Warning (AC & W) systems operator field.

After training at Keesler AFB, and during the next almost twenty-three years, he was assigned to Mt. Lemmon Air Station (AFS), AZ, Campion AFS, AK, England AFB, LA, Eufaula AFS, AL, Canadian Forces Base North Bay, Ontario, Canada, Fort Fisher AFS, NC, Hon Tre Island Tactical Control Squadron (TCS), South Vietnam, Tatalina AFS, AK and again at Keesler AFB, MS.

SOME HIGHLIGHTS

First Alaska tour- 1960-61- near Galena — remote --13 months. His first daughter was almost eight months old before he saw her.

Three year—1966 — 69 — (family accompanied) tour to North Bay, Ontario—worked eight hundred feet underground—similar to the North American Air Defense Command (NORAD) complex at Cheyenne Mountain, CO. This was probably the most enjoyable assignment of his career.

1970 - 71 Hon Tre Island, South Vietnam, off the coast of Nha Trang, in the South China Sea. At another time, resort hunting area for the King of Siam. Beautiful. One year to the day. When the “Freedom Bird” lifted off Cam Rahn Bay everyone stomped their feet and it felt like the whole plane shook, then it got so quiet you could hear a pin drop. When they got off the plane, the Army guys changed into civilian clothes and threw their combat uniforms into a corner in the restroom. Wife Judy, with their daughters and her parents met him in St. Louis.

Second Alaska tour—1976-77— near McGrath—remote—11 months. He saw a couple of the Iditarod dog sled teams on their way to Nome.

Richard was sent to Keesler AFB from Vietnam in 1971 and worked primarily as an instructor with the AC&W (three - level) operator courses. In 1976 his number was up for the second tour in Alaska. The expense of initial and ongoing training for a qualified Air Force Technical Instructor is such that, with excellent qualifications and performance ratings, they can be

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brought back and reassigned to that duty. After three more years in instructor and supervisory positions at Keesler AFB, he closed out his Air Force career in 1981.

After retiring, Richard attended Jackson County MS Community College, then the University of Southern Mississippi (USM) Gulf Coast, earning a four year Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration. Also during this period, he and his wife built their dream home. That took 21/2 years as they did a lot of the work and had no mortgage when it was finished.

After college and until totally retiring at age 62, Richard worked as manager of two outdoor power equipment companies, taught Retail Sales and Management for one year at a trade college and finally as a part time employee at a hardware store.

Much credit is given to our veterans and rightly so, but it should be shared equally with their families. Judy took care of their two daughters and in one case, 13 head of cattle while he was gone to Alaska—driving about 12 miles before and after work. She is the daughter of the late Francis (Skip) and Edith (Clark) Woltz (also farmers) of rural Findlay. She graduated from Moweaqua in 1960. Judy started work with Keesler Federal Credit Union in 1974 and retired after 40 years in 2014 — the first employee to reach that goal.

They have two daughters—Judi,- a court reporter for the 8th Chancery Court District of the State of MS. and Vicki,— Benefits Manager for Scientific Games Inc. of Alpharetta, GA. They have a grandson Joshua, Air Force veteran and senior at the University of CA, Chico and a granddaughter Kristin,— junior at the University of GA, Athens.

Thank you, Master Sergeant Richard A. Morrow, for what you did for us and for your story.

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