ALL GAVE SOME; SOME GAVE ALL

This week's veteran is Bill Rohweder.

During high school, I was attending the Illinois State FFA Convention in Springfield. Seeing Assumption on the back of my jacket, a man approached me and asked if I knew if Bill Rohweder had ever come back from WWII. Regrettably, I told him that he had not returned. He said that he had seen Bill jump out of their disabled plane, and that his parachute had opened before he disappeared into a cloud, but he never saw him again. Being above Bill's open parachute as it is enveloped by a mist is an image that has been in my mind since that day. Bill was officially declared dead on August 8, 1944. He was awarded the Air Medal with 7 Oak Leaf Clusters and the Purple Heart. Bill is listed on the Tablets of the Missing at Ardennes American Cemetery, Belgium. His unit was the 597th Bomber Squadron, 397th Bomber Group. They flew the B-26 Marauder, a medium but very swift bomber.

Bill's plight returned to me when I was examining about WWII veterans from the Assumption area. For some reason, his name was omitted. I was stunned. Here was a hero from the area that had already been forgotten. That is why we are building the Assumption Veterans' Memorial, so that our veterans will not be forgotten.

Thank you, Staff Sergeant William Rohweder, for what you gave for us.