

ALL GAVE SOME; SOME GAVE ALL

This week's veteran is Joe Smith

Following is information taken from the Golden Prairie News dated April 13, 1971:

Word was received last Wednesday of the death of First Lieutenant Joseph S. Smith, son of Mrs. Stanley Smith of Assumption.

Lieutenant Smith was an F-100 Super Sabre Jet pilot with the United States Combat Air Force in Vietnam. He was killed in action when his plane was shot down in enemy territory over Cambodia. He was first reported missing in action on April 4th.

The Prairie State Tribune feathered a story on Lieutenant Smith on February 25, 1971, when he received the Air Medal for aerial achievement under extremely hazardous conditions. The mission was one of many completed by him in the supersonic F-100 on his Southeast Asia tour of duty at Phan Rang. He was assigned there to the 612th Tactical Fighter Squadron.

Prior to going to Vietnam in August of 1970, Lieutenant Smith served at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona. He is a 1963 graduate of Assumption High School. He was commissioned through the Reserve Office Training Program in 1967 at the University of Notre Dame where in the same year he earned a BBA degree in management. He since earned an MBA degree in management at Washington University in St. Louis where he is also became a member of Beta Gamma Sigma.

Lieutenant Smith is survived by his wife, the former Ruth Elaine Unser, of Decatur, and his mother of Assumption.

The following poem by Sam Simon reflects the high esteem that everyone had for Joe.

*When I see a bandaged athlete giving his best for a losing cause, I'll remember Joe.
When I have a student who takes correction without complaint, I'll remember Joe.
When a graduate goes out of his way to pay me a friendly visit, I'll remember Joe.
When I see a fine young man serving his country well, I'll remember Joe.
And when I realize that the world has lost a friend, I'll remember Joe.
Joe personified all these things, so I'll remember Joe.*

Thank you, Captain Joseph S. Smith, for what you gave for us.