

## ALL GAVE SOME; SOME GAVE ALL

This week's veteran is D. W. (Bill) Sullivan.

Bill interrupted his high school education in June of 1943 to volunteer to join the United States Marine Corps. After attending basic training in San Diego, California, he was sent to Memphis, Tennessee, for airplane mechanic school. In May, 1944, Bill was sent to Santa Barbara, California, to board a ship for Guadalcanal. He will never forget the ocean trip to Guadalcanal because he never saw land for 28 days. In June of 1944, he was transferred to the USMC fighters and bombers stationed on Green Island, part of the Australian Territory of New Guinea. Interestingly, President Richard M. Nixon, who was a naval Lieutenant, was commander of the U. S. South Pacific Combat Air Transport Command that was stationed on Green Island at the same time. In November of 1944, Bill was shipped to the Philippines where in January of 1945, he was badly burned in an explosion. First, he was sent to a hospital at Hollandia, New Guinea. From there, he was sent home by ship to the Long Beach Naval Hospital. He was discharged from the Marines at Great Lakes Naval Hospital in 1945.

Bill was awarded the following decorations: Asiatic Campaign Medal with three battle stars, Philippine Liberation medal with one star, Presidential Unit Citation, Philippine Presidential Unit Citation, the Victory Medal, and sharpshooter badge.

After being discharged, Bill went back to Stephen Decatur High to see if he could take courses to get his degree. The Dean of Students told him that if he passed the two year foundry course which included English, physics, and chemistry offered by Millikin University, he would award him his high school diploma. By completing the Millikin course, Bill received his high school diploma as part of the Stephen Decatur Class of 1946, and got a job at Wagner Castings for 38 years. He married Eleanor Bower Sullivan of Pana in 1948. They have four sons, five grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

Thank you, PFC Bill Sullivan, for what you gave for us.