

## **ALL GAVE SOME; SOME GAVE ALL**

This week's veteran is Walter Younker.

Walter is the son of Burl and Bea Younker. During his grade school and high school years, he lived with his family on a farm on the north side of Bald Knob. He graduated from Assumption High School in 1957. While attending the University of Illinois, he received ROTC training. Upon graduating from the U of I in June of 1961, he was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the U. S. Army.

In July of 1961, he was sent to Fort Bliss at El Paso, TX, for eight weeks training to become an Army Air-Defense Artillery officer. At that time, the Army was using the Hercules air-defense missile to protect cities, manufacturing, and essential military installations from possible attack by Russian bombers. After completing training at Fort Bliss, he was sent to Arlington Heights, IL, headquarters for the 45th Brigade, Chicago-Gary Air Defense System. His job while at the 45th was to coordinate the missile batteries around Chicago and Gary, IN, to provide the efficient use of missiles on targets.

Walter was discharged from active duty at Fort Sheridan, IL, in July of 1963. He started working for Adams County FS near Quincy, IL, as a salesman. From Quincy, he and his family moved to Moravia, IA, in 1967 where he became manager of the Moravia FS Company. From 1972 to 1980, he was manager of Quad Counties FS in Emmetsburg, IA. In 1980 he moved to Vinton, IA, to manage Vinton FS. After leaving Vinton in 1993, he was manager of Spoon River FS in Galesburg, IL, until he retired in 2001.

Walter married Carolyn Bugg on January 13, 1962. They had three children: Elizabeth, Stephen, and Vonda, and two grandchildren. Walter died November 29, 2002, and daughter, Vonda, died October 3, 2010.

Thank you, 1st Lieutenant Walter W. Younker, for what you gave for us.