

RICHARD G. CRAIG

Richard George Craig was born on February 16, 1946 in Cincinnati, OH to Eleanore and George Craig. He was an only child. He attended Sacred Heart Grade School in Camp Washington and graduated from Roger Bacon High School in 1964. Eventually, after his service days, he would return to the University of Cincinnati on the G.I. Bill.

Richard entered the United States Marines on October 13, 1965 and was sent to Marine Corps Recruiting Depot in San Diego, CA. He completed training here and was sent to Pendleton, CA for his Advanced Infantry Training. He deployed to Vietnam and was on a ship across the Pacific Ocean for 30 days and he said it was a very unpleasant trip. Lots of sea sickness and cramped and smelly quarters.

He was attached to Co. E, 2nd Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment of the 3rd Marine Division FMF- -Fleet Marine Force. He was a Marine Rifleman (031), a Lance Corporal and was located near Da Nang, South Vietnam. He was only in country for three weeks and one day when he was severely wounded by a “Bouncing Betty” type of land mine on May 26, 1966 while on a “Search and Destroy” mission. When tripped, it would pop up in the air about three feet and explode and wound the person with shrapnel. The shrapnel left 46 puncture wounds in his body, collapsed one lung and broke both arms, his right leg and resulted in the loss of his right elbow. He remembers being flown out of the area on a Sikorsky helicopter to a

medical evacuation center and eventually waking up at Clark Air Force Base in the Philippines.

His Second Battalion Marines were known as the “Bucket of Blood Battalion” and he found this to be very true.

He returned to the USA for one year of hospitalization and rehabilitation at the Great Lakes Hospital near Chicago and was temporarily medically retired from the Marine Corps on June 30, 1967 and fully retired in 1969.

Richard met his future wife, Lynn, and they were married in 1973 and today they live happily on Dutch Hollow Road in Aurora, IN.

Richard is a very humble man and is proud of his Marine Corps service. He went to work at the Bright Corporation, which makes metal tanks. He also worked for Western Southern Life Insurance Co. and worked as the Disabled Veterans Outreach Representative (DVOR) for many years for the State of Ohio Unemployment Division on Central Parkway in Cincinnati.

Richard received a Purple Heart for his wounds and was also awarded the National Defense Service Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal and the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross with Palm.

He is a Life Member of the Southeastern Indiana Vietnam Veterans of America, Larry D. Fogle Chapter 71 in Aurora.

He will be awarded a beautiful Purple Heart Plaque on September 24 at the Lawrenceburg Fall Music Fest and a beautiful Quilt of Valor by the Rivertown Quilters at the Lawrenceburg Civic Park.

Rick Craig is a True American Hero who shed his blood on foreign soil to protect our freedoms and to try to make this a better world. God Bless him and our great nation.