

ERIC LYNN SMITH

Eric Smith was born to Loyd and Adele Smith in Bright, Indiana and was the oldest of seven children. He was born on January 9, 1952. He attended grade school in Bright for six years and Guilford Grade School for two years. Eric joined the United States Army before graduating from North Dearborn High School in 1970.

He took basic training at Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri, Infantry training at Fort Ord, California and then sent to Ft. Benning, Georgia for Airborne training.

He was deployed to Vietnam and served in the Central Highlands of Vietnam with the 173rd Airborne Brigade in 1971. When the 173rd left Vietnam, they moved to Fort Campbell, Kentucky. It was then deactivated and Eric then served with the 101st Airborne Division - - the Screamin' Eagles. He served with Company D, 151st Infantry Airborne Ranger Company in the Indiana Army National Guard. After this unit was deactivated, Eric joined the 11th Special

Forces Group, attending Special Forces training at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Eric served in the 11th Special Forces Group for almost 18 years after serving in the United States Army for more than 20 years. He retired after the first Gulf War as a Sergeant First Class (E-7). He has been married to Judy Smith for 50 years and has a son, Jeremiah, and a daughter, Maria. Eric and Judy have two grandsons, Mahlon and Leo and one granddaughter, Eleanora. Eric had seven uncles and three great uncles who served in World War II, one uncle who served in the Korean War and one uncle who served in the Navy in Vietnam. He also had several cousins who have served in the military. Eric has many awards, medals, ribbons and accommodations from the military and among them are several Army Commendation Medals, Vietnam Service Medal and Vietnam Campaign Medal. His two most prized are the Combat Infantryman's Badge (CIB) and the Master Parachute Wings, along with his Green Beret. You won't find anyone with any more Patriotism and the willingness to serve his

country than Eric Smith. He is a True American Patriot and Hero who faithfully served and is still serving our great nation today by supporting our troops who have followed in his footsteps. God Bless America.