

## RICK SOMMER

Rick Sommer was born to Faye and Carl Sommer in Cincinnati Ohio and had one sister, Michelle. He attended St. Bernard Grade School, which was located between Cheviot and Miamitown. He graduated from Oak Hills High School in 1965.

Rick was inducted into the United States Army in July of 1967 and went to basic training at Ft. Benning, Georgia and then to AIT at Ft. McClellan, Alabama. He was deployed to Vietnam and flew from the State of Washington to Hawaii and on to Vietnam. He arrived at Cam Ranh Bay, where he was assigned to the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division near the DMZ. He received a gunshot wound to the stomach on February 22, 1968 and was flown out of the combat area on a “Dustoff” or Medevac Chopper and was eventually returned to the USA and Walter Reed Hospital near Washington, DC. After his recovery, he was able to come home for a while and then reported to Fr. Hood, Texas until he was honorably discharged in July of 1969. Rick met Elaine Broughton from Lawrenceburg and they were married on November 30, 1985 and they have one son, David, and his wife, Amy.

Rick worked for the U.S. Postal System and retired after 26 years of service from the Greater Cincinnati Airport (CVG) Post Office.

Rick is a member of St. Lawrence Church, in Lawrenceburg, and the Knights of Columbus (K of C) Council 1231, where he is a 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Knight. He is a Life Member of the Southeastern Indiana Vietnam Veterans of America, Larry D. Fogle Chapter 71 and member of the Lawrenceburg American Legion Post 239.

Rick has been honored as a Hometown Hero by the Cincinnati Reds, presented with a beautiful Purple Heart plaque at the Lawrenceburg Fall Fest, honored at a dinner given by Kevin Wang for 21 Purple Heart Recipients at his Grand Buffet Restaurant, and also presented with a beautiful Quilt of Valor by Sheila Stevenson and the

Rivertown Quilters.

Rick is very proud of his service to the USA and continues to believe in and live by the words: Duty-Honor-Country.

He was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Purple Heart, 2 Bronze Stars with "V" for Valor, Presidential Unit Citation, Vietnamese Gallantry Cross with Palm, Combat Infantryman's Badge (CIB) and the Expert shooting badge.

Rick continues to be a True American Patriot and as a Combat Wounded Warrior, he supports our troops serving around the world today. He left his blood on foreign soil fighting to preserve our freedoms and to try to make this a better world.

Rick is a True American Hero.