

STEPHEN R. UTTER

Steve Utter was born on September 16, 1947 to Harley & Louella Utter on Sangamaw Ridge in Dillsboro, Indiana. He was the youngest of ten children. His siblings are: John, Jerry, Norm, Wayne, James, Nellie, Mary, Scharline, Genieve (Sissy or Jenny). Steve and John are the only two still living.

Steve attended schools in Dillsboro and was a 1965 graduate of Dillsboro High School.

He entered the United States Army on November 2, 1966 in Cincinnati, OH and spent his first night in the Fountain Square Hotel as the whole area was shut down due to an early snowstorm that dumped eleven inches of snow in our area. He took his basic training at Ft. Knox, Kentucky under Staff Sergeant Malcolm P. Libbey, who would later be killed in action in Vietnam on October 12, 1967. Steve then was sent to Ft. Polk, Louisiana for AIT and then received his orders for Vietnam. He was deployed to Xuan Loc, Vietnam to serve with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment (ARC). He was twice wounded in action against enemy forces and was awarded two Purple Hearts. He was also awarded the Combat Infantryman's Badge (CIB), National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with four bronze battle stars, a Presidential Unit Citation, Presidential Valorous Unit Citation, Meritorious Unit Citation, Republic of Vietnam Civil Actions Honor Medal 1st Class, Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm, the Expert Shooting Badges for the M-16 Rifle and M-60 Machine Gun and Marksman Badge for the M-14 Rifle. He was assigned to Co. C, 52nd Infantry in Saigon after his second Purple Heart and assigned to a guard duty post. After his year of deployment in Vietnam he returned to Ft. Knox, KY where he was assigned

to Co. B, 4th Infantry Battalion, 54th Infantry until his discharge on November 1, 1968.

While in Vietnam, he met up with a soldier he has gone thru basic training with at Ft. Knox, Bill Strode. Steve also enjoyed his R&R in Hawaii.

Steve married his classmate and wife, Kathy, on September 24, 1966 and they have three children: Tom, Kris (Ronnie) Hensley and Sarah (Kevin) Thomas. They have four grandchildren.

Steve retired from the American Electric Power (AEP) Tanners Creek (I&M) Power Plant after a 37 year career as a Maintenance Supervisor.

Steve lost both kidneys due to his exposure to Agent Orange in Vietnam. His sister, Scharline Utter Fields, donated one of her kidneys, at age 62, on September 30, 1997. She passed away in 2020 but today that 88 year old kidney is still functioning.

September is a busy month for the family as they celebrate Tom's birthday on the 10th, Steve's birthday on the 16th, wedding anniversary on the 24th and kidney anniversary on the 30th.

Steve attends the St. John's Lutheran Church in Farmers Retreat. He is a member of Dillsboro American Legion Post 292 and life member of the Southeastern Indiana Vietnam Veterans of America, Lary D. Fogle Chapter 71. He was recently honored as a Hometown Hero at a Cincinnati Reds game where he stood on top of the dugout and was recognized as a True American Hero.

Steve is proud of his service to our great nation and it's men like him who put their life on the line, who give us the opportunity to Live the American Dream.