

Robert (Bob) Murray

This is the fifth in a series of articles that we hope to publish for years to come. With this series we want to honor Service Members that served our great Nation. As I mentioned in the last article we need your help to honor these fine Americans. If you have someone you would like us to include. Our email address is mhamlegionpost113@gmail.com

Bob Murray was born February 24, 1927 in Elmhurst, Illinois to Myron and Geneva. When he was three years old his family moved to Blue Mounds, WI. Bob's parents, raised him, his older brother and sister on a farm outside of Blue Mounds. Bob graduated from high school in Mount Horeb in 1944. After graduation he continued to work as a farmhand until he was drafted in 1952.

In 1952 Bob was drafted in to the Army. He was inducted in Milwaukee, WI shipped to Fort Sheridan, IL to process and then on to Fort Breckinridge, KY for Basic Training. Bob trained as an Infantryman. Once he finished his training Bob was assigned to the 25th Infantry Division in Korea deployed along the Main Line of Resistance. He arrived in November and spent an entire year on the line in a machine gun bunker with five other men. From the time he arrived until August 1953 when the war ended they always had someone on watch 24 hours a day 7 days a week.

Bob didn't talk a lot about his experiences in Korea but did relay a few stories. He mentioned that at one point the five men in the bunker were talking and all the sudden the entire bunker moved under them. Afterward they were all covered in dust but they didn't have a scratch on them. As Bob picked up his shaving kit to clean up everything fell out of it because it was shredded by the shrapnel from the round that hit the bunker. He also told about going out on night patrols a couple times a week to see what the enemy was doing.

Everyone spent nine months or so on the line because their tours ended after a year. Bob stayed in the Army for almost two years so he ended up spending an entire year on the front lines. Bob attained the rank of Staff Sergeant receiving several awards including different battle stars. At the end of his time in Korea Bob processed through San Francisco on to Fort Carson Colorado and then out-processed at Fort Benjamin Harrison, IN.

When Bob returned home he began farming and married Marion in October, 1953. Marion and Bob had three children: Janet, David and Jim. Bob continued to serve his country in the Mount Horeb American Legion, helping veterans and youth in this community.

Bob died February, 3rd, 2014 at the age of 86.

Let us Never Forget that Freedom is NOT Free

Compiled by Jerry Hook

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