

Wyatt Smith

Cienna Mansfield

Mr. Peters

March 31 2015

King High Remembers

Eddie Crews was born in Brent, Alabama on September 26, 1945. After finishing high school at Alabama and one year at Oakwood college, he decided to enlist in the service. He then moved from Alabama to New York, and there he joined the Army. One of his most prominent reasons for deciding to enlist was to keep himself out of trouble. His mother wasn't too happy about him enlisting in the service at first, but she soon accepted it and received letters from him during the time he served.

After being accepted into the Army, his basic training began. He despised the first few days of this training in New Jersey, but then was able to adjust to his new life in the service. His role was to be a mechanic, predominantly working on the trucks and generators, keeping them maintained. While in training some of the men he was bunking with pulled a prank on him by "sheeting his bed". He got back at them by putting water in buckets which was then dumped on

them. After he finished that training, the first place he was stationed was in Germany. He was not too fond of Germany and was only there for six months before being transferred to Vietnam, which is where he stayed the rest of his time in the Army. During his service, he did not have a good luck charm and eventually traveled to London, Germany, Australia, and Japan.

He was not usually involved in any direct combat, so the casualties suffered by his group were quite few. One of the few times he was in combat he received a commendation medal in June of 1968 for these his actions. The Army commendation medal he received had a ceremony in Vietnam. It was given because he helped in the rescuing of two military policemen and drawing the fire of the Vietcong to keep the person on the ground safe. At this time he was the level of specialist (end of 1967) and was E5 (1968).

While Eddie was serving, he had four close friends that were all mechanics in the same company as him. These memorable friends he made in Vietnam were mainly men that he worked with on a daily basis, most of them having enlisted like he did. Unfortunately, once they returned home from Vietnam, he hardly got to speak with them.

Once, he got into a fight with another part of his company during his time in Germany. This, besides the fact that he was never fond of Germany to begin with, was one of the reasons he left there for Vietnam in January of 1967.

After he returned home from the service, Eddie met and eventually married his wife. She was a preschool teacher, and he went to a school for mechanics in Los Angeles to get further certification before he worked in the Long Beach ports. He has been married to his wife for 32 years, and they have three kids: Debra, Daryl, and David. His son Darrell was in the Navy for a number of years in the field of sonar.

Mr. Crews is currently an active volunteer at the VA hospital near his home, serving his fellow veterans that cannot get to and from the hospital on their own. His experience in the armed forces taught him how to control his temper, how to deal with all kinds of people better, and was an overall positive experience for him.

