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Dennis Galloway

Dennis Galloway was born and raised in Detroit, Michigan. Dennis was one of 4 children and was a twin. He lived in a house of two bedrooms when in total was a family of six. His older brother served in the Air Force and trained Air Force pilots. His parent were very hardworking to give them a good life. They were loving to him and cared deeply of him. September 1966 he was 19 years old, when he was drafted into the U.S. Army to fight in the Vietnam War. When this shocking news was announced, Dennis's uncle had found him a job in Toronto, Canada to be a mail boy. He had to consider this option carefully because he had a girlfriend named Karen and during this time if people fled to Canada to avoid being drafted, they wouldn't be able to return to the United States unless they were prosecuted or imprisoned. This burden would affect the whole outcome of his life, but he soon made his choice and decided to go to the Army. He realized that he wouldn't want to leave his family and wouldn't want to affect Karen's life by dragging her with him.

On September 16th 1966 he was sent to Fort Knox, KY to receive his basic training. This is where he learned how to shoot and other techniques needed for the war. They would also have to be taught discipline and organization. During the week they would be inspected in their rooms and locker, if their items were not in the position it was supposed to be, then they could end up getting a job that no one would want. Now that he graduated from basic training, he was sent to Advanced Infantry Training in Fort Polk, LA (Tiger Land) on December 1966. During his

training Dennis met a lot of good people. His friends would play pranks on each other by shortening each others sheets so that when the person getting pranked wouldn't be able to lay in their bed. They would also put shaving cream on a person's hand that was sleeping and then tickle their nose. The person would then smack their face with their hand that had the shaving cream.

On February 21, 1967 he was departed from his friends and stationed to Phoc Vinh, South Vietnam to the Infantry Company C1st BN 2nd INF. He was in the 1st Infantry Div. "The Big Red One". This is where he experienced combat from March 1st through March 30th. During this time he witnessed 19 firefights, and 2 bonzi attacks. They would fight in the jungle, it was dusty and humid. They would throw Napan bombs which had a jelly substance and would stick on the skin and burn the Vietnamese. On his free time he would try to write to his girlfriend Karen because she would write him everyday. One of his rituals before his day got started was that he would read a verse from the field Bible and ask God for guidance. The pocket sized bible was his lucky momento that he kept with him during combat.

The night that changed everything was March 30th when he was ordered to the night listening post (lp) warning system. Before he did what he would always do and read a bible verse. At 10pm he was on radio duty when him and his comrades got ambushed. Dennis got on the radio to ask for permission to leave their position because they couldn't run back to the military grounds or else they would be shot at. While on the radio a mortar had fallen by his face but the radio blocked it and saved his life. Even though Dennis was hit by an 80 millimeter mortar-round that penetrated through his leg, back, collapsing his right lung, and left arm fractured he still managed to take cover. He was then taken to the U.S Army Hospital, Saigon to

have 12 surgeries. He was there for only 30 days and was taken to U.S. Air Force Hospital, Japan and received one more surgery. For recovery and rehab he was sent to U.S. Naval Hospital, Great Lakes, Ill. (June 3, 1967) to get back his motion in his leg and arm. While he was here he had a job as the Admiral Runner which he would carry medical documents between the doctor and the admiral. He was also a medical record supervisor and would work with the nurses, which he loved.

On June 14, 1968 Dennis completed his hospitalization and was sent home with a honorable discharge. During the Vietnam War the United States was divided by pro-war and anti-war activist, on his plane ride back he wore his uniform and protestors of the war yelled at him calling him names like “baby killer”, he was also spit on. Once he came home Karen and him planned their wedding and got married on July 20, 1968. They soon bought a house in Garden City, Michigan and started their own family. Dennis had Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome and wouldn't be able to sleep because his pilot light made a clicking sound and it would remind him of one loading a gun. This took over for 25 years until he was finally able to handle it. Dennis worked in manufacturing and sales for about three years. Then one of his friends suggested he should be in real estate because he has the personality for it and ever since then he has succeeded in it with is own real estate company, and today his own consultant.

After Dennis's experience in the war he didn't go back to school because he wanted to start living his life because the war put a pause to it and his near life-death experience so, he didn't want to waste any time. Dennis has traveled to all fifty states and visited other countries. He believes no country can be compared to the United States. This experience changed his views and morals, which had a major impact on him in a positive way. The Lord blessed him and gave

him another chance to reflect on life. It has given him a tremendous sense to give back, he is part of the Disabled American Veteran and Mended Hearts. Dennis believes that everyone should serve our country because it would teach you skills that would be beneficial in life like organization, respect, and discipline.