

# “Life-Changing”

While I currently live in Montana, I'm from New York. I was born in Schenectady and graduated from high school in Greenwich, NY. I dropped out of Potsdam State in December 1967.\* I joined the Army in January 1968 at the Albany recruiting center. I enlisted to be a paratrooper, infantry in Vietnam. My recruiter said he could make that all happen--and he did. I served as a combat infantry sergeant with both the 82nd Airborne and the 101st Airborne in 1969/1970. With the 82nd Airborne, we searched enemy tunnel complexes, and with the 101st Airborne we operated in and near the A Shau valley. I was one of the lucky ones and came home more or less unscathed.

While I am dealing with Agent Orange exposure, I count myself blessed to have lived a wonderful life for the last 50 years while so many of my brothers never came home. For the last 10 years I have worked with a nonprofit organization here in Montana helping post 9/11 veterans. I do it because I do not want them to be treated like we were when we came home.

\*A week after I left Vietnam in 1970 I reenrolled in college at SUNY Albany and graduated in 1973--Magna Cum Laude!

—Larry, Whitefish, MT (formerly of Schenectady)