

“Fiancée”

My husband, William J Dickerson, Jr (1940-2017) served in Saigon and Nakhon Phanom, Thailand in 65-66 as a weapons controller for the USAF. He was one of the first faces in Thailand. The base was small when he was first there and he often said it grew exponentially (over the war). I had graduated in college in 64. Some classmates got married their senior year so the men wouldn't be drafted. Bill was going to be drafted, he had gone to New Orleans to work as a geologist in 62 and he came home especially to make sure he didn't get drafted and enlist. He didn't feel that two years in the army would be a good use. He was going to be another number - he left as a major.

My perspective was as a fiancée, receiving daily letters, waiting for him to come home and get married, which we did. He stayed in the Air Force as a reservist. We had 5 kids and grand kids. It's their time now. He was proud of it (his time of service). So many people don't see that. I see their perspective, but it bothers me. if you look at his obituary, under the TU, you'll find much of what i told you. He developed a deep love for the Thai people and became good friends with the Thai priest who said Mass on the base and he became the priest's server.

—Mary Lou, Schenectady