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Gerald K. Drake

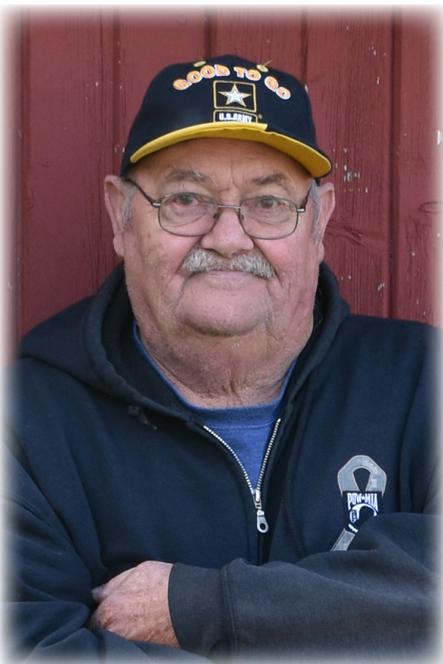
“Being in combat I had a rifle by my side at all times. Freedom is not free. We must protect it by defending our constitutional rights. It was an honor to serve,” said Gerald Drake.

Gerald was drafted in 1966 and went through Basic Training at Fort Campbell, KY. He received advanced training at Fort Belvoir, VA as a generator mechanic. Then he went to Fort Huachuca, AZ for permanent duty.

In 1968, his unit was ordered to go to Vietnam. While there, his unit’s home base was in Qui Nhon.

Gerald, SPC E-5 (Specialist), served in the Army from 1966 to 1968.

Once honorably discharged, Gerald returned home to farm and also worked at Anaconda. Now, 73, Gerald is retired and resides in rural DeKalb with his wife, Mary Anne. His son, Scott, and son-in-law, Dan Hoffman, and grandson, Ethan, currently farm.



David Drake, Sgt. E-5 (Sergeant), was in the Army from 1969 to 1970.

David R. Drake

“I was proud to serve. I was young and indestructible. I was trained and told what to do and did it,” said David Drake.

David completed Basic Training at Fort Campbell, KY and then Infantry training at Camp Crockett, GA. Jump (parachute) training was in Fort Benning, GA. He was stationed at Fort Bragg, NC with the 82nd Airborne Unit.

In December 1969 his unit was sent to Vietnam with the 1st Infantry to do mine sweeps. In the Spring of 1970 the 1st Infantry was sent home but he didn’t have enough time in so the Army assigned him to the 1st Cavalry as a demolition specialist where they would air lift him to a landing zone and he would clear an outpost. He was a MOS combat engineer and paratrooper.

David, Sgt. E-5 (Sergeant), was in the Army from 1969 to 1970.

As the last of the Drake brothers to return home from the Army, David farmed and also worked at Five Points Elevator west of Sycamore. When the elevator was sold he farmed full-time. Today he is semi-retired as he helps his son, Ben, and grandson, Tyler, farm. David, 72, resides in rural Kingston with his wife, Linda. ►

