

VETERAN OF THE MONTH

August 2024

VFW Post 12135 - William Wall



William (Bill) Wall was born in Council Bluffs, IA and raised in a farming community. He had two Uncles who served in the Navy. One fought it WWII and the other served during the Korean War on an aircraft carrier.

When Bill graduated High School, he began work at Hot Point Appliance, a warehouse in his hometown. After working there for a year, the business began to downsize and Bill was released from his job. With no other prospects for employment, he decided to join the U.S. Navy.

Bill enlisted in the Navy on January 13, 1961 and attended boot camp at the Naval Training Center (NTC) in San Diego, CA. He then went on to his Advanced Individual Training (AIT) at the Hospital Corps School at Balboa Naval Hospital in San Diego to train as a Hospital Corpsman. After his AIT, he was then reassigned to Beaufort Naval Hospital in August 1961, where he worked in the Pneumonia Ward, Emergency Room and Maintenance Division. In March 1965, Bill was given

an opportunity to attend advanced trauma training at Camp Lejune, NC, where he trained as a Combat Medic. While there, he learned how to treat combat injuries, start IV's, bandaging wounds, and stabilizing battlefield trauma.

Also in 1965, Bill was deployed to the Dominican Republic due to the uprising during that time. He was also assigned to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba assisting with the base perimeter and assisted the engineers in removing and setting of new mine fields. In 1967, Bill was sent to Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape (SERE) School, which is a training program for the Navy that prepares service members to survive in remote environments and emergency situations. After SERE School, he was then deployed to Da Nang, Vietnam, where he was assigned to a Naval Hospital and worked as a Ward Corpsman, treating injured combat soldiers and Prisoners of War (POW). During his tour

in Vietnam, he also assumed Quartermaster duties, patrolling with boat crews, providing emergency medical training, and treating the boat crew members. After serving 13 months in Vietnam, Bill was then transferred back home to the Bethesda Naval Hospital in Maryland. From 1969 until his eventual retirement in 1981, Bill served in a multitude of different leadership positions, culminating into his final assignment at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington D.C. He retired as a Chief Petty Officer (E7) and his awards and decorations include: Combat Action Ribbon, Good Conduct (5 awards), Presidential Unit Citation, Navy Unit Citation, Vietnam Service Medal, and Vietnam Campaign Medal.

After his retirement in 1980, Bill moved back to Council Bluffs, IA and worked at Mercy Hospital Laboratory. In 1986, while still working at Mercy, he decided to join the Sheriff's Department as a Reserve Deputy Sheriff for the county of Pottawattmie. Bill worked at Mercy for 29 years before retiring from his position as the Operation Director of the Laboratory. Additionally, in 2010 Bill also retired from the Sheriff's Department as a Captain. However, his retirement coincided with the passing of his first wife of 52 years, Patricia.

Bill eventually met his second wife, Lois, in 2012. He was set up on a blind date and one requirement to this blind date was that Bill had to learn how to dance. He quickly learned the Texas Two-Step and was successful in his attempt because ever since that first blind date, they haven't stopped dancing together. Bill and Lois eventually married in 2013 and took a trip to east Tennessee. While Bill and Lois were visiting, with Bill's five sisters and brother, they fell in love with the area. After three years, they were able to finally make the move and fully retire in east Tennessee and moved into Tellico Village. In 2017, Bill joined the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post #12135. He supports the VFW's mission and enjoys fishing, golfing, and still dancing the night away with Lois.

The Tellico Village VFW Post #12135 General meeting is held at 7:00 p.m. in the Tellico Village Yacht Club every third Wednesday of the month. Further information can be found on the Post website at: <https://www.tvvfw.org/>.