

William Joseph Furge
By Sidney Furge

William Joseph Furge served as a military police officer in the Vietnam War. He served his time during the years of 1969-1975 at a base camp in Fort Knox, Kentucky. He was, and still is, very proud of his service because not a lot of people were willing to volunteer during that time. Mainly because there was a lot of confusion about why the United States was even in the war.

When he told his family and friends he was leaving the state to go and be a soldier, his wife was very proud of him and was glad he was going, but scared he might not come back. She was also glad he didn't have to leave the country. Some of his friends were supportive, but others told him he shouldn't do it because people didn't like that the U.S. was in the war.

When he was serving, he felt his contribution was choosing to volunteer to go into the war, unlike most people who were drafted, and also being able to help the soldiers fighting in Vietnam while being here in the states. "When you were in Vietnam you didn't talk about it much, because of the obvious. You were killing people. And when you came back, you weren't respected as a soldier, like the soldiers nowadays are respected."

I learned from his contribution that it's important to do what you believe in, even when others aren't sure it's the right thing. Sometimes it takes the most courage to do what you feel is right.