

WHAT'S THE SHAPE OF THE WORLD? BY STEVE TINNEN, PUBLISHER

# Our vets are more about service than self

You know you're growin' older when... you no longer know every song on the radio.

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Several weeks ago, Jim Smith of Plattsburg dropped by the office and shared a letter written by his daughter, honoring his service in Vietnam. He is not the kind of person to shine light on what he accomplished during this controversial war in Vietnam. Mr. Smith is more interested in acknowledging the bravery and service to our country by the battalion he was a member of during his three tours of duty; with the 19th Combat Engineer Battalion.

As a result of their courageous service in Vietnam, they were awarded the Valorous Unit Award. This was in recognition of the 105 killed in action and the more than 400 who were wounded in action and received the Purple Heart medal. This unit award was made during the time he was serving in Vietnam, especially during the year of 1968. According to their website from 1965 - 1970, this Battalion was in combat for five continuous years, including 13 service campaigns.

Jim has a sign positioned in the back of his pickup truck honoring this award. It is a reminder to him and to us that service to our country and his fellow servicemen was more important than himself.

Thank you, Jim, for your service and to all who have served so that we can remain free.

## April 1968 Plattsburg Leader "To Vietnam"

Forrest and Elsie Smith received a long-distance telephone call from their son, Specialist four James F. Smith, who told them that he was leaving at five o'clock Monday morning of this week for Vietnam, where he will be stationed

at Cam-Rhan Bay for re-assignment with the 18th Engineer Division.

Jim had just been at home on a 30-day furlough. He received his basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, and then was transferred to Fort Benning, Georgia. He reported at Fort Lewis, Washington, before leaving the States. He will be in Vietnam at least a year.

## May 1968 Plattsburg Leader "Among Servicemen"

Army Specialist Four James F. Smith, 19-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Forrest C. Smith, Sr., has been assigned as a heavy equipment operator with the 19th Engineer Battalion near Tam Quan, Vietnam.

## PRAYER OF THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

U.S. Army Engineer Museum Fort Leonard Wood, MO

Almighty God, creator of the universe, we praise You for spanning heaven and Earth and holding the plumb line of the cosmos in Your gracious hand. Thank you for past engineers who have served with dedication, gallantry, patriotism, and skill - sometimes at the cost of their mortal lives.

Bless today all men and women of the United States Army Corps of Engineers wherever they are stationed around the globe. As we perform our varied tasks, guide us in making rough places smooth, crooked ways straight, and our environment safer. May our minds be keen, our calculations accurate, our myriad projects successful, and our myriads of projects successful, and our faith in You unending.

Enable our topographers to be precise, and our stewards of resources to be steadfast. May our works reflect a degree of Your perfection and bring delight to everyone who benefits from them. Give audacity and courage to our combat elements.

May our lead on the battlefield enjoy Your guard as we prepare the way for others who are committed to freedom and justice throughout the world. Open our inner lives to know You better and receive Your gift of deliverance through salvation. Grant us wisdom in our efforts to improve, maintain, protect, and restore Your creation. Inspire us to also treat fairly all You entrust to our care. Help us to conform to Your will and be faithful in all our pursuits.

Then may we mirror Your divine order, with leadership in engineering that builds a lasting legacy for every generation.

Essayons!

In Your Name we pray, almighty God, engineer of all eternity.

Amen.

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Trivia: Which dog found on a World War I battlefield went on to star in 27 films?

A. Lassie B. Rin Tin Tin C. Toto D. Benji (Find correct answer close by)

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## Another smile...

Four old-timers were playing their weekly game of golf, and one remarked how nice it would be to wake up on Christmas morning, roll out of bed and without an argument, go directly to the golf course, meet his buddies and play a round. His buddies all chimed in and said, "Let's do it! We'll make it a priority to figure out a way and meet there early Christmas morning."

Months later, that special morning arrives, and there they are on the golf course.

The first guy says, "Boy, this game cost me a fortune! I bought my wife such a diamond ring that she can't take her eyes off it."

Number 2 guy says, "I spent a ton, too. My wife is at home planning a cruise I gave her. She was up to her eyeballs in brochures."

Number 3 guy says, "Well, my wife is at home admiring her new car, reading the manual."

They all turned to the last guy in the group, which is staring at them like they have lost their minds.

"I can't believe you all went to such expense for this golf game. I woke up, slapped my wife on her back side and said, 'Well babe, Merry Christmas! It's a great morning for either staying in bed or golf.'"

And she replied, "Don't forget to take a sweater." (Trivia answer - Rin Tin Tin was a male German Shepherd rescued from a World War I battlefield by an American soldier, Lee Duncan, who nicknamed him "Rinty". Duncan trained Rin Tin Tin and obtained silent film work for the dog. Rin Tin Tin was an immediate box office success and went on to appear in 27 Hollywood films, gaining worldwide fame. Along with the earlier canine film star Strongheart, Rin Tin Tin was responsible for greatly increasing the popularity of German Shepherd).

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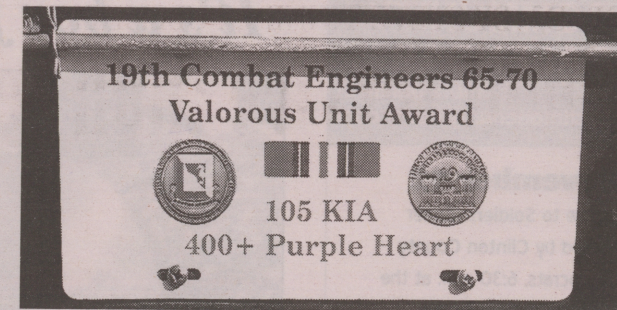
Food for thought: "It took me seventeen years to get three thousand hits in baseball. I did it in one afternoon on the golf course" Hank Aaron, member of baseball Hall of fame; holds record for most home runs.

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Fact of the Day: The sons of Hitler's nephew all agreed that they would never marry or have children in order to kill Hitler's bloodline.

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Talk to you next week.



The sign displayed in the back of Jim Smith's pickup honors the members of his Battalion.

*Somewhere in a field  
You were lying there dreaming of home  
Fighting for your country  
Just because you loved here  
Now you're home trying to forget the war  
But everywhere you go people spit and call you names  
But I know what you were fighting for  
And I'm so glad you came home*

*They may call you a vet or a killer  
But I love you so  
You mean the world to me  
So if you're weary just lean on me  
And I thank the Lord above  
That you came home*

*I can't say I'll always understand what you're going through  
But I'll be there and try to be your friend  
And every night I'll say to the Lord  
Thank you for bringing him home*

*Oh thank you for bringing him home*

*Dedicated to my father, James T. Smith Sr., who fought in Vietnam  
From his daughter, Kim Smith, who loves him*