

Laverne Burns

Following graduation, I enlisted in the U.S.A.F. I spent 6 wks in Basic training at Lackland A.F.B. San Antonio TX. Then onto Sheppard A.F.B. Wichita Falls TX. for Aircraft Mechanic Jet Engine over two training

In Oct '64 was transferred to Langley A.F.B. Va. for advanced Aircraft Mechanics on C-130B Aircraft. In Feb of '65 was assigned temporary duty to Howard A.F.B Panama Canal Zone for 90 days. Our cargo was farm machinery delivered to countries in South America to help grow crops to feed their people.

Then came Feb '66. The 463 Troop Carrier Wing departed Langley for a little unknown Island in the Pacific called Mactan, in the Philippines, 2 hr flight from Daigon. I was assigned Crew Chief on a C-130. Was on 23 classified 2 week missions into Vietnam, Cambodia and Thailand

Departed this fine institution at the rank of SGT in Feb of '67 married Kathleen Albrecht from Pocahontas. Lived in Omaha for a short time before relocating back to Iowa.

After trying to find a job that I liked I settled in Telecommunications in '70. I worked construction, climbing poles, stringing cable, Installation & Repair out of Lake View Ia. Was promoted to J.R Supr. and relocated to Columbus Ia in '78.

1983 found us in Fayette Ia, then in '91  
Contec merged with G.T.E. and I was transferred to  
Manchester Ia to fill the Local Manager position. More  
restructuring found me with the same company  
but in Creston Ia. as Construction Supv in '93

About 1 yr later my position was eliminated  
and so I went to work for U.S. West in downtown  
Des Moines. 2 yrs later an opportunity came for me  
to return to my old position with G.T.E. in Manchester Ia

Shortly after G.T.E and Bell Atlantic merged forming  
Verizon, this gave me the chance to retire in Dec 01 with  
Verizon benefits. After 31 years, no more moving around

Kathy, an R.N. continued to work in geriatric nursing  
until Sept 09 when she retired to join me in saying  
every day is a Saturday

My brother Jim, and I had planned on doing a lot  
of Walleye fishing on the Mississippi. Sadly I lost my brother <sup>Jim</sup> to  
pancreatic cancer in 03 at the age of 57. Before he died  
he told me there was an airplane at the airport in  
Decorah which was exactly like the one Ron Bloomquist  
had taught him to fly.

We have three sons. Steve and his wife Leanne live  
in West Union Ia. Steve is yard foreman for Spahn  
and Rose Lumber. Leanne is in the activity dept at

Good Samaritan nursing home and is also her church custodian. David, our middle son is Service Manager with Academy Roofing in Arvada. He is engaged to Barb and her three children. No definite wedding date as of yet. John, our youngest son, interned with Walmart during college and has remained with them, working his way up from assistant manager to store manager and now Human Resource Manager. He and his wife Beverly a school teacher live in Decorah Ia, not far from the world reknown Eagles Nest.

In 2010 without prior warning, I found myself in need of coronary bypass surgery. I received 4 bypasses the day before Thanksgiving. The family celebrated with turkey and all the trimmings. I had Turkey broth! Since then I am doing well with cardiac rehab and life style changes. Exercise is an important part of my health care plan. I am walking 2 miles daily, quit tobacco cold turkey 11-16-10. Remain tobacco free!! Now, about that weight.....

Now that I am retired, I volunteered to play old rock N roll & country music on my guitar about local memory care unit twice a month. I play 2 hrs straight and all 20 stay right there with me they really enjoy it. Also in the process of building a model railroad around a wall in a spare room in the basement I have adults and young children that really enjoy seeing it.