

Vietnam vets have stories



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AGO OUR FATHERS BROUGHT FORTH ON
THIS CONTINENT A NEW NATION,
CONCEIVED IN LIBERTY, AND
DEDICATED TO THE PROPOSITION
THAT ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL.

—ABRAHAM LINCOLN



Pete Jensen

Pete Jensen was in the Army from 1968-1970 and served in the Vietnam War during most of that time. He was drafted into the 199 Light Infantry and was in light infantry as a foot soldier.

When he first arrived, he was a radio operator, carrying the equipment on his back in a pack. Before long he was just in the infantry which was often hairy.

His unit was a mobile unit. When there was a call of a skirmish, the troops were flown by helicopter, starting in the south part of Vietnam, to the action where they either jumped out or were taken down and dumped out to help the soldiers already engaged in action.

There were different fights and often they were scary. One time, he was among those who were pinned down by the enemy for two days. The tanks were called and they came to the rescue but before they came, it was a time of concern for the men.

He noted that during that time, they always had sufficient food, eating mostly dry rations.

Jensen received two Army Commendation medals for meritorious achievement, a Bronze



Pete Jensen

Star and an Air Medal for combat air assaults out of the helicopter. He said the Bronze Star generally means that the person had done something outstanding but as far as he was concerned, it was just a matter of staying alive.

When his time was up in the service, he came back to the states where he worked for a concrete company in Newton. Today, he runs St. Francis Sand and Redi-Mix.

Sam Miller

Sam Miller was in the Army and served in Vietnam from 1967 to 1969. He was drafted and knew after he did his basics, he did not want to be a rifleman so he signed up to train in radio communications in New Jersey.

He reported that he looked around at the other soldiers and felt like it was one of the easier lines of duty.

"I basically was a traffic controller and took transmitted messages and sent them on.... I was fortunate to not see any action," he said.

He noted that the closest he came to action was when a rocket hit close to the camp and there was a little scrambling that time.

However, his stay in Vietnam was interesting. His base was battalion headquarters and many generals came through. He also learned a lot about the culture of the country and the Australian military which was nearby.

He came back to the states and then back to St. Francis where he was born and raised.



Sam Miller with monkey

Let Freedom Ring!

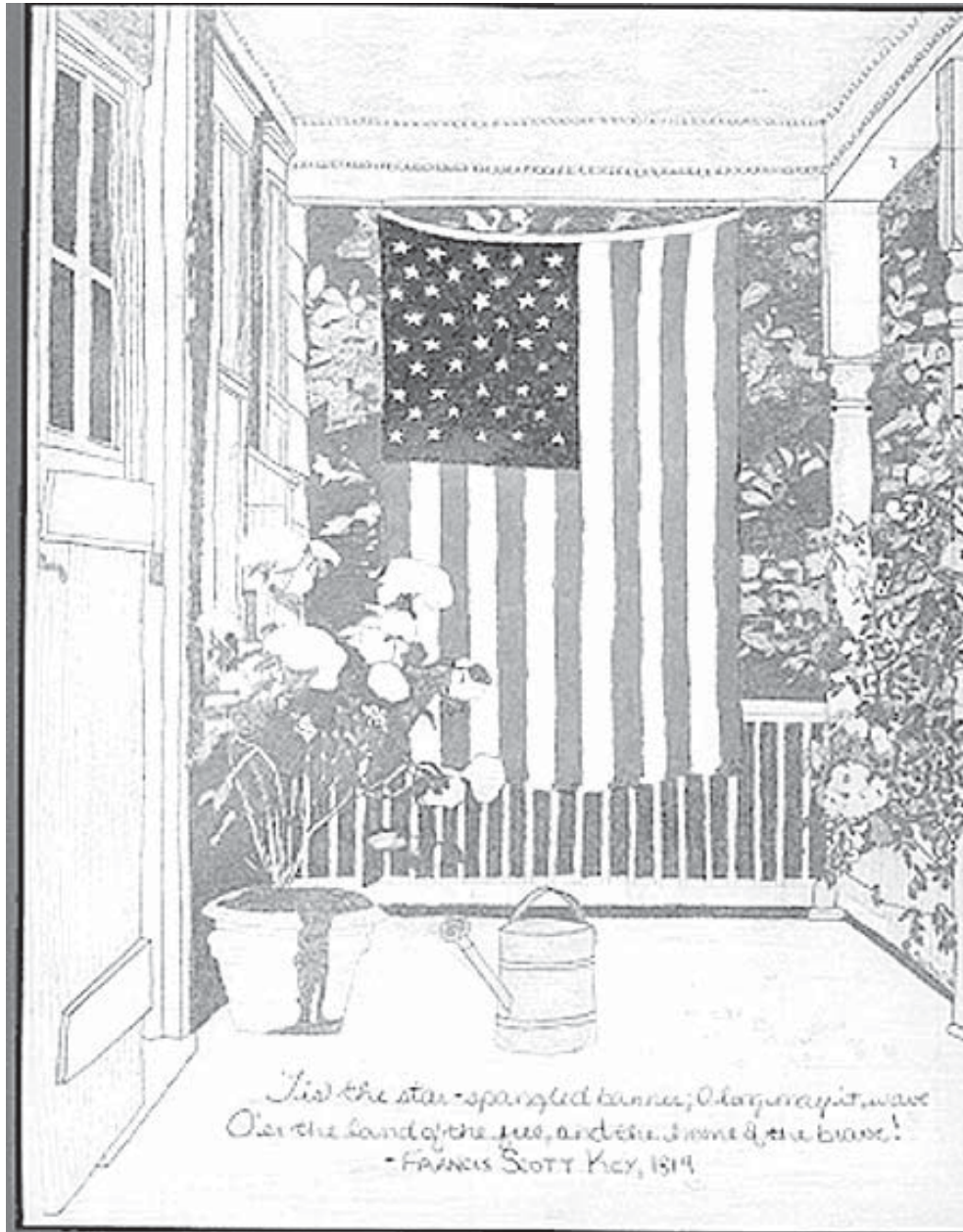


*This great nation is the
product of its people ...
and the strength
of their ideals.*

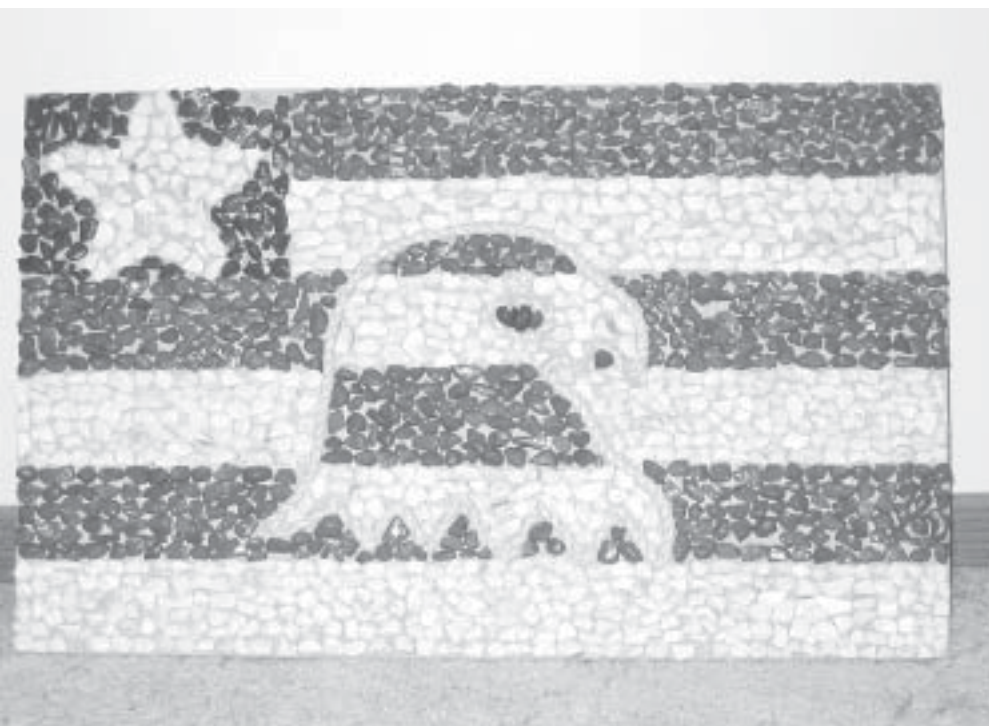
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St. Francis high school art students submit designs



Patriotic drawing by Rachel Hinzdil



Patriotic design formed with colored rocks made by Nick Raile

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Liberty lies in the hearts of men and women; when it dies there, no constitution, no law, no court can save it.

—Judge Learned Hand



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