

JOHN ELLINGWOOD

John Ellingwood was born on January 7th, 1946 in Rumford, Maine. He lived in Hanover and attended Hanover Elementary School, Crescent Park School, and Gould Academy, class of 1964. He was a member of the Outing Club and focused on the Industrial Arts curriculum at Gould. After graduation from Gould, he attended Greer Technology Institute in Braidwood, Illinois which specialized in heavy equipment operation and maintenance.

John enlisted in the U.S. Army in January 1965 and was sent to Fort Dix, New Jersey for basic training and advanced individual training with a military occupation specialty (MOS) as a truck driver. In June 1965 he was assigned to U.S Army Europe in Ludwigsburg, Germany and remained there until July 1968. He drove Army trucks all over Europe as part of his duties, serving with the 15th and 32nd Transportation Companies. During this period, he was promoted to E-5 and awarded a Maintenance MOS.

In June 1968 he returned to the United States and was assigned to Fort Riley, Kansas, first with the 24th Infantry Division and later the 1st Infantry Division. He was the Company Motor Sergeant in a mechanized infantry battalion.

In July of 1970 he was transferred to Vietnam and assigned to the 520th Transportation Battalion as Battalion Motor Sergeant, serving in Phu Loi Base Camp, Bien Hoa Air Base, and Cu Chi Base Camp. The 520th Transportation Battalion provided direct and general support for over 1,100 Army aircraft within the northern and western half of Military Region 3. At one point, John was assigned to the 165th Transportation Company which was moved from Bien Hoa Air Base to Phu Loi, allowing for more centralized supply and maintenance operations.

John returned to the US from Vietnam in July 1971 and was assigned to the Meriden, Connecticut Army Recruiting Office as a recruiter. John received an Honorable Discharge from the Army in July 1973 with the rank of E-6, Staff Sergeant. During his service, he received the National Defense Service Medal, two awards of the Good Conduct Medal, three Army Commendation Medals, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, and the U.S. Army Recruiting Badge.

John married Gloria Abbott from Rumford Point in July 1969 and has two children. After his Army service, he spent thirteen years as a long-haul trucker for Carl Subler Trucking, Versailles, Ohio, working out of the Saco, Maine terminal. He then drove for Hutchins Trucking in Portland, Maine for twenty-eight years. John retired in January 2014 and lives in Waterboro, Maine.

