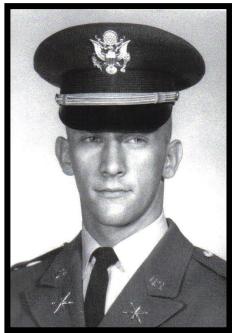




**ROBERT FIKE** US Navy, Retired. BM3C. (phone 724 342 0636)

**Bob Fike served his country in the European Theater**, receiving a ribbon with 2 stars. He participated in the Normandy Invasion, Omaha Beach, Easy Red Sector. Aboard a landing ship tank in 1944 Mr. Fike helped transport troops, 36 to 38 men at a time on the LVCP boat to Omaha Beach and transport the wounded from the beach to the ship and back to England. "On the way in, it was really something because all you saw were bodies floating." After his D-Day assignment he participated in the Southern France Invasion. **He served his country also in the Pacific Theater** receiving a ribbon with 1 star for assignment to Okinawa, Japan. He served on the Navy Amphibious LST 494 that took him to the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans; the East China, Irish,

Mediterranean and Tyrrhenian Seas. He is proud that he and his friends 'did their jobs', and would tell soldiers serving today that 'to serve your country to the highest, for freedom is for all Americans.' Mercer County salutes Petty Officer Fike for his valor and service to his country.



**WILLIAM D. GREGG** US Army, Retired. Captain. (phone 724 748 3679)

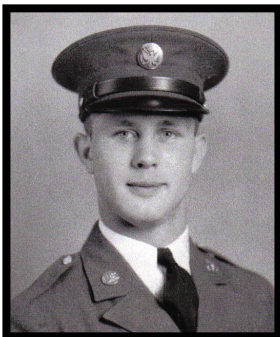
**Bill Gregg served his country in Icorp/DaNang and DongHa, the northernmost part of Vietnam.**

Of his war experience he speaks of a call from Battalion Headquarters that a Marine Convoy had been ambushed by a regiment-size North Vietnamese force. When their tank platoon arrived they could clearly see they were well out-numbered by the enemy. Their position was outside artillery range and their sister units were at least 30 minutes away. As they came upon the site they had difficulty positioning their tanks because of Marine and North Vietnamese Army bodies in their path. They called for F-4 Phantom support 100 miles away and held their position long enough to retrieve their fallen and provide fire support until the F-4s and their sister units arrived. When help arrived their platoon set up a night defensive position. In the morning they cleared the site, gathering over 300 North Vietnamese

soldiers' bodies to process. Says Captain Gregg, "This is the first time I had experienced bodies being stacked like firewood to be loaded on trucks to take back to our encampment to be put in body bags. They were our enemy but they were humans too. Their comrades left them there. I don't think I could ever leave a fallen American behind like that. We brought our Marines and Army soldiers back with us. That is one of the things I took seriously in Vietnam-NEVER LEAVING ONE OF THE PLATOON'S FALLEN SOLDIERS BEHIND.....they, each one, came back to camp." Mr. Gregg has received the Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device, a second Bronze Star with bronze oak leaf clusters for heroism, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal with device (1960) Republic of Vietnam Campaign Ribbon with device (1960), Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation, Expert Badge with Rifle Bar.

On freedom, Mr. Gregg says, "From the drafting of our Constitution to the efforts of our military in Iraq, men and women of America have strived for the ultimate degree of freedom. We must not take it for granted. Too many of them have given their lives to ensure we all continue to enjoy it." He advises those serving in the military today to take their commitment seriously and serve with pride. Strive to accomplish with honor every duty assigned and look to God for strength.

Mercer County salutes Captain Gregg for his valor and service to his country.



**SAMUEL MCCURDY**, US Air Force, Retired. Master Sergeant (phone 814 786 7494)

**Sam served his country in Hawaii and the South Pacific Islands.** He was stationed at Pearl Harbor, Oahu. Because of deteriorating relations between the United States and the Japanese Empire he and his fellow soldiers started performing guard duty on the planes parked at Hickman Airfield to protect them from espionage. The Japanese Air Force attack began just minutes after he was relieved of guard duty at 7 a.m., December 7, 1941. For the next two hours Mr. McCurdy was witness to total chaos and heroics by his fellow soldiers. Someone handed him a water-cooled .30 caliber machine gun, with no water, to try to keep the attackers at bay. Without the water he could fire only 50 rounds before it overheated. Over 3000 of his fellow servicemen were killed in the two

hour attack on Pearl Harbor. There was a mass destruction of America's Naval and Air Force airplanes and ships.

Mr. McCurdy feels that freedom is one of our most precious possessions. "Without it, we are slaves." He would tell servicemen today that they are entrusted with carrying the flag of freedom as thousands and thousands have done to preserve the freedom we enjoy. Mercer County salutes Master Sergeant McCurdy for his valor and service to his country.

