

## Meet Legionnaire: **Albert 'Buddy' Burgess**

Buddy was born July 8, 1951 in Greenville, Mississippi. After graduating from Greenville HS in 1969, he enrolled in Mississippi State University. While at MSU, he was the Equipment Manger for their football team.

During the summer of 1969, shortly after graduating from GHS, Buddy met his future wife. Carolyn Suzann Burgess had moved from Michigan UP to Greenville, MS with her family. "She is a 'Yankee Burgess' – no relation to the Southern Burgess". They were married August 7, 1971. They have raised two sons, Albert A. Burgess, III lives in Centerton and Steven Christopher Burgess lives here in Siloam Springs. They have 5 grandchildren.

February, 1971 the draft lottery numbers were drawn, Buddy received number 6, so, off to the recruiting station he went. The USAF gave him a delayed enlistment until May. After basic training, Buddy reported to Biloxi AB, MS for a six month Radar Technical School.

Upon completion of the technical training, he was assigned to Richmond Blue Grass Army Depot in Richmond Kentucky. Buddy's assignment was to a highly classified Radar Site operations until his discharge in May 1975. During the time at Richmond, he received many, many TDY's. The longest being to Pleiku Vietnam in July 1972 for 8 months. The most memorable was to Austin, Texas.

After his discharge, Buddy enrolled in Delta State University, using the GI Bill he had earned the past four years. After earning a BBA in accounting from Delta State University, Buddy joined his father at 'Burgess Recreation' in downtown Greenville, Mississippi, a business that his father had owned for 16 years. Buddy purchased it from his father and continued to operate it for another ten years. The business had an old soda-fountain type cafe up front and a pool hall in the back half of the building.

The year of 1988, Buddy moved his family to Northwest Arkansas to work for Walmart in the Returns Center, first as a Supervisor and later as a Manager. 1998 GENCO, a family owned Logistics Company lured all of the Return Center Mangers away from Walmart. Later Buddy joined INMAR and retired in 2019.

Buddy and his wife love to travel. They have visited all fifty states, and took his Mom with them. They have visited most of the National Parks, but there is still more to see. "With what's in these fifty states, there is no need to go anywhere else in the world".

Buddy also enjoys woodworking, playing golf, and all sports. He is an avid Razorback fan. He enjoyed playing Fast pitch & Slow pitch Softball until 2010, when he hung up his glove.

2008 found Buddy in attendance at the Masters Golf Tournament, where he watched Jeff Ogelvy defeat Tiger Woods. Then in 2011 he was able to be a spectator at the US Open held in NYC.

Buddy joined The American Legion in December of 2019, after receiving a letter from Indianapolis National Headquarters. He transferred to Siloam Post 29, after receiving a visit from Stuart Reeves and J.W. Smith. He was elected to the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice

Commanders position for the 2021 – 2022 Legion year. Buddy said he was impressed by the members of Post 29 friendliness, and the amount of assistance they give to individuals and local organizations in the community.