



Vietnam Veteran Gary Don Moseley, pictured above, was awarded the Purple Heart after being wounded in combat.

## A Salute...

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on artillery roads for firing units if they got into an ambush and needed backup."

Forty-five days later Moseley and his unit suffered tragedy and loss when one of the members of his unit unknowingly stepped on to a land mine and it detonated. The friend lost his life and others were wounded, Moseley being one of them.

"I was wounded on October 10, 1968, and that's a day I won't ever forget," he said. "Fourteen others were wounded at the same

time. A friend of mine stepped on a land mine. It killed him...people don't understand what it is like."

After a hospital stay and recovery, he was assigned to a support unit that manned a 105mm howitzer artillery weapon that supported surrounding infantry units in the field under attack. Moseley was a part of the unit for seven months sharing that he and his team would be 'picked up by a helicopter with the gun, taken and set down wherever' they were needed.

"I saw things in Vietnam that I never dreamed could happen," he reflected. "It changed the way I see things. I'm not a hero; I don't want people to think that. Those who died there and never came back are the heroes."

John Sid Grimm served in the National Guard for 42 years in both the 1086 and 1087 Units. He and his fellow 1086th National Guard members were responsible for transporting water to troops stationed in the Middle East during 1990-1991 during Opera-

tion Desert Storm.

When asked to describe the conditions there, he simply replied, "Hot! Sandy! Dusty!" He learned during his tenure that green grass grows in the hot sandy terrain and that water does freeze in the Saudi desert. He remembers that during that conflict 'everybody did their job and served the country well' and they 'were glad to serve'.

"We had sixty 18-wheelers that provided water to all of the units in Desert Storm. We hauled water every day," he said. "I was proud to have served my country and I'm still proud of my country—it's one of the best in the world."

Glen "Slick" Joiner also served in Operation Desert Storm in Saudi Arabia from 1990-1991 in the 1087th National Guard Unit along with other local LaSalle men and women including his younger brother Jimmy, and fellow national guardsmen Greg Floyd, Russell Poole, Kevin Wilson and Jimmy Joubert. The unit was responsible for prompt mobilization and transportation services of troops, equipment and supplies.

"Once we got into the country, we predominantly became a water hauling unit," Joiner shared. "We had a 44-foot trailer that hauled 5,500 gallons of water. We filled it up and hauled water to different locations in the desert where infantry troops would come and fill up."

They were also trained on how to respond to possible terrorist bombings and attacks as they traversed the roads and highways delivering their cargo. Joiner and his fellow guardsmen returned after one year of service to a parade of appreciative LaSalle Parish family members and residents, a memory that will never be forgotten.

The debt of gratitude owed to US veterans can



Pictured above is veteran John Sid Grimm, who served with the 1086th National Guard Unit during the Gulf War.

never be fully repaid. Their sacrifice and service continue to ensure the blessings of liberty and freedom enjoyed by American citizens daily.

LaSalle Parish veterans have been an important

part of that process and sacrifice. A heartfelt tribute and salute are offered to each individual who has served and given his or her best to ensure this country remains a free and independent democracy.



Veteran Glen "Slick" Joiner, pictured above, served with the 1087th National Guard Unit during Operation Desert Storm.

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