

# WESTBORO'S VETERANS DAY GRAND MARSHAL

## GERARD (KEN) GAGNON



My early years were spent in Quincy, Mass. I attended grammar school in Quincy and went to Sacred Heart High School in Weymouth Mass. After high school I had a few different jobs, primarily doing surveying work for a company in Quincy. After two years the draft board called, but I decided to join the Army for three years.

When I signed up I was told by my recruiter I would be going to school in Fort Belvoir, VA. to be a construction surveyor. Boy was I misled! I went to Fort Sill, Oklahoma and then to Fort Carson, Colorado to be assigned to a tank unit heading to Vietnam. After about a month a group of us were reassigned to go to Fort Belvoir to study construction survey. Upon completion I was shipped out to Vietnam as a replacement person. I spent my time “in country” doing construction work, as well as guard duty in fox holes and towers. That was an experience. Sitting in a fox hole looking into the night and hoping we didn’t get attacked. The bulk of my time was spent building large tanks to hold gas or building barracks for the men and women to sleep in. We also created roads in the jungle for the trucks to travel on, which was quite the task.

When I returned to civilian life, I went to night school and earned two degrees under the G. I. Bill, while helping to raise three children. I found employment with Mass. Electric and spent my career doing engineering work for the company.

Good fortune was with me, as I finished my career working in Westborough, the town where my wife and I have raised our children. We have spent almost 40 years here and are very happy and proud to have been a part of the community.

To this day, I vividly remember how we were treated when we came home from Nam. I want to thank everyone for the way you treat Vets now.