

John Henry Nickels

I was born and raised in the log cabin at the west end of the street in Castle Dale, Emery County, Utah. The year was 1945.

I graduated from Emery County High School in 1964.

I worked various jobs before I was drafted into the Army in 1968. Basic Training was at Fort Bliss, Texas. There was NO Bliss there. Advanced Individual Training (AIT) was at Fort Gordon, GA. My first duty station was at Fort Campbell, KY. I was an MP in the 335th MP Company for about seven months before I was shipped out to Vietnam. I was in the 1st Air Cavalry, 545th MP Company during my tour in Vietnam from 1969 to 1970.

In 1970 I took a vacation to visit my sister Caral and her husband Bob in Las Vegas, Nevada. Bob was able to help me get a job where he worked at Kerr McGee Chemical in Henderson, Nevada. I only left to come home to visit family and go hunting. Among other things we made the main ingredient for the solid rocket boosters used for the Space Shuttle program. Our only competitor in the US, PEPCON, was not as safe as we were and blew their manufacturing facility up in 1988. Check out a Video of the explosion on YouTube. Just search for "Rocket fuel plant explosion in Nevada".

My wife and I married in 1987 and I lost her to multiple organ failure in 2013. We had 26 wonderful years together.

In 2003 I retired from Kerr McGee.

Life is good and I am still living in Henderson, Nevada.