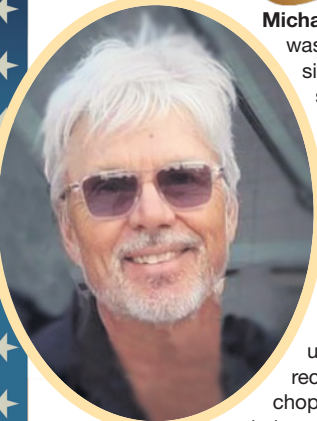


VETERAN OF THE MONTH

Michael L. Timmer



Michael L. Timmer was born in Pease, MN March 1958. Pease was a small (pop. 190) Dutch settled town in central MN. He, his sister, and his young parents lived with Mike's Grandparents for several years until his parents saved enough money to move to the suburbs of North Minneapolis. Mike graduated from Spring Lake Park H.S. in 1976, and soon after, joined the Army where he attended basic training at Ft. Knox, KY. He then began training as an air delivery specialist in Ft. Lee, VA, as a Parachute Rigger. Mike's first duty assignment was the 4th Quartermaster detachment, Camp Carroll, Korea. The small detachment worked with Korean soldiers in air delivery training operations. Mike had several interesting missions over his 13 months, including recovery of a 500 lb. unexploded bomb found near a mountain-top temple, and recovery of wreckage from a marine exercise where marine choppers and medivac helicopters crashed in the mountains during a storm. Another memorable exercise resulted in damage to several huts along a dried river bed near Tague. A huge sand bar was the

drop zone, but after the load, consisting of Jeeps, Howitzers, and a Tank was extracted from the air craft, the wind shifted abruptly, causing the heavy payload to drift into a small community. Fortunately, there were no injuries!

After Korea, Mike was stationed in Ft. Devens, MA, assigned to the service company in the 10th Special Forces Group. From 1977-79 Mike made several TDY trips with various Special Forces teams training and traveling all over Europe. A memorable trip to Denmark, Mike recalls jumping with the Danish special forces near Aalborg. The drop zone was a large cow pasture, and someone's chute from the team draped over a cow. Before the soldier

could disconnect his risers, the startled cow took him for a good ride!

After his time in the active duty, Mike joined the Airforce Reserve, and then the Army National Guard in Minneapolis, and received 3 honorable discharges from his service in 1983.

From 1980 - 1983 Mike attended Saint Cloud State University, and received a B.S. degree in Photo Engineering. He worked in Photofinishing Management for Kodak and other companies in CA, IN, MD, and NC. When the film processing industry became antiquated in the mid-90s, Mike became a long-haul trucker, and had traveled to all lower 48 States during his 7 years with JB Hunt. In 2004, Mike accepted a teaching position at James Rumsey Technical Institute in Martinsburg, WV, administering a truck driver training program until he retired in 2018 and moved to Tellico Village.

Mike and wife, Lisa, have four children between them. Justin, a Microsoft gaming technician in MD. Niki who raises chickens with her husband Levi, an HVAC technician in MD. Amanda is a Sergeant First Class / E-7 in the Army stationed in Virginia Beach with Grandson Braxton. And Daniel who works for the Department of Homeland Security in Tampa, FL, with wife Summer, grand-daughter Adalynn and Grandson Kaden. Daniel was also in the Army, in Military Intelligence. Both he and Amanda served 2 tours each in Iraq.

Mike and Lisa both enjoy pickleball, golf, boating and social activities with friends. Currently attending First Baptist Church of Lenoir City, they are seeking membership and ways to get involved in serving the Lord. Lisa is looking forward to retirement from the I.T. field in December 2023, where she can then spend time pursuing her hobbies, including her love of quilting. Mike has been driving a school bus the last several years until Lisa retires. Mike is also a member of STAYinTV and an active life-member of the Tellico Village VFW post where he currently serves as the Publicity Officer.

The Tellico Village VFW Post #12135 General meeting is held at 7:00 p.m. in the Tellico Village Yacht Club every third Wednesday of the month. Further information can be found on the Post website at <https://www.tellicovillagevfwpost.org/>