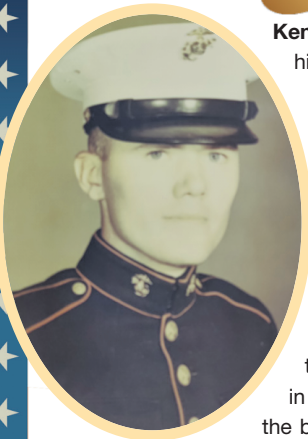


# VETERAN OF THE MONTH

## Tellico Village VFW Post 12135



**Ken DeBoer** was born in Brooklyn, New York and grew up in his father's Grocery and deli business. His brother served in the United States Air Force and his uncle served in United States Marine Corps (USMC).

After high school, Ken attended Pace College in Manhattan and lost several good friends in Vietnam. He decided to put his education on hold and join the USMC in October 1965. He went thru basic training in Parris Island, South Carolina and after graduation he then began Advanced Infantry Training. Ken then went to Camp Pendleton in San Diego, CA for Jungle Warfare training. He was then sent to Vietnam and spent 13 months in the country for his tour of duty. During his time in Vietnam, the brotherhood that developed during his service still remains strong to this day. Eventually, Ken served four years and was honorably discharge in October 1969.

After being discharged from the USMC, Ken returned to school at St John's University in New York City, New York. Upon graduation, he became a Police Officer in Long Island, NY. His career in policing included hostage negotiation, disaster planning, crime prevention, building security, supervisor of S.W.A.T. operations, shopping mall security, and domestic violence security. He played a key part in the development of the nation's first cost-effective criminal apprehension program. The program focused on electronic

response of criminal activity which activated emergency services response. The system would reduce notification to law enforcement from the moment of an alarm going off from generally 8 minutes down to 3.5 seconds. This technology was available for adoption nationwide and was featured in Family Circle magazine, other tabloids across the nation, and T.V. The program was awarded the National Association of Counties Certificate of Achievement. Ken eventually retired after 25 years of service with the Long Island Police Department and moved to Florida where he opened a Chicken Wing restaurant. He continued to run the restaurant for 10 years until he eventually sold the business. He became a halfback and ended up in Tellico Village, TN in 2005.

After moving to Tellico Village with his wife Cathy DeBoer of 30 years, Ken served with the Loudon City Police Department Part-Time and started a program for disabled, shut-ins, and abused people to provide better safety for those less fortunate. The program was staffed by volunteers, many from Tellico Village. Ken presently enjoys living life in Tellico Village and supporting his community in multiple volunteer jobs.

Ken has and still continues to serve his community within many volunteer organizations. He has served in the American Legion for 50 years, Veteran of Foreign Wars (VFW) for 30 years, and also served with in Marine Corps League (MCL) for 30 years. He presently serves as the Commandant of the MCL of greater Knoxville. 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/>.