

We Salute



U.S. Army photo

SP5 Randall C. Hamel

The longest war in the nation's history was beginning to heat up in 1965 when 21-year-old Randall C. Hamel, son of the late John and Dorothy (Gressman) Hamel of Laurelville, enlisted in the U.S. Army. General William Westmoreland had requested an additional 200,000 troops to supplement the 475,000 forces already on the ground.

"At the end of a nine-week computer course in Fort Monmouth, N.J., 90 percent of my unit was deployed to Vietnam," Hamel said. "The rest of us, myself included, went to Germany."

Following his honorable discharge in March of '68, Hamel returned home and eventually joined the American Legion Post 446 in Mount Pleasant where he currently serves as bugler in the post's honor guard.

"In addition to participating in parades and public functions, we average about 40 funerals per year," Hamel continued. "One day we had three services at three different cemeteries scheduled to be held three hours apart. It had us scrambling until the local VFW post offered to lend a hand."

Requirements for a military funeral are said to be discretionary and may vary from post to post.

"A while back, a distraught family living outside the area called to request a military funeral for their father. They had previously contacted two other posts where they were asked, 'Was your father a member of our post?' When they replied that he was not they were told, 'Sorry, we can't help you.' Our commander asked a different question: 'Was your father a *veteran*?' After the service, every member of that family came up to shake our hands. It was a good feeling."

As a CRHS member, Hamel has put his Monmouth training to use by logging more than 6,000 obituaries of local residents into the society's computer.

-- Eileene Rose

New Business Member

Tlumac Tax Agency - Acme, Pa.

Support Our Business Members

- Amerikohl Mining, Inc. Stahlstown.
- Brady's Restaurant, Acme.
- Champion Lumber Co., Champion.
- Collections By Marty, Donegal.
- Connie Dennison EA, Donegal.
- Dave Sadler Ins. Agency, Stahlstown.
- Jerry Temple Tire & Auto, Acme.
- John B. Neiderhiser, Inc., Ligonier.
- King & Giddy Law Office, Greensburg.
- Laurel Highland Telephone Co., Stahlstown.
- Laurel Valley Hardware, Stahlstown.
- Ligonier Valley Rail Road Association.
- Loyalhanna Veterinary Clinic, Stahlstown.
- Mountain Laurel Chamber of Commerce.
- S&S Communication Services, Inc., Acme.
- Shari Bukovac Bookkeeping, Melcroft.
- The Country Pie Shop, Donegal.
- The Old General Store, Donegal.
- Whispering Pines Antiques, Stahlstown.
- Zanes Domains Web Design, Donegal.
- Foggy Mt. Lodge & Restaurant, Stahlstown.
- Wilson Chiropractic Health Center Jones Mills & Mount Pleasant.

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Who Is It?



CRHS Archives

Hint: Someone once told him if he worked like a dog and kept his nose clean he could grow up to be president.