

#60 James G. Martens (1 picture, formal write-up)



James, Spec. 4 was inducted into the U.S. Army at Omaha, Nebraska on January 25, 1955. He took eight weeks of basic training at Fort Ord, California. After basic training he was sent to ASA Training Center in Fort Devens, Massachusetts for two months and then to Southeastern Signal School at Camp Gordon, Georgia for three months. Next he was assigned to the 1st ASA Field Company, Vint Hill Farms Station in Warrenton, Virginia.

James was discharged at Fort Myer, Arlington, Virginia on January 24, 1958. He returned home and attended R.E.I. Electronics School in Omaha, Nebraska. Then he worked for Martin-Marietta Corp. in Denver, Colorado for two years (builder of the Titan Missile).

He is a member of the America Legion Emil Ewoldt Post 22, where he was commander from 1994 to 1996, and 2016-17.



James Martens, Manning American Legion Commander 2016-17

One of the special and unique aspects the Manning Veterans' history book will have are military family connections. James' son, Ryan, graduated from Manning High School in 1997 and has been serving in the Air Force since graduation.

Ryan will be featured in the section for his era of military service but to help encourage this family military history I'll show Ryan's information with his dad's story.

As you'll see, Ryan's story will need to be updated for the future Veterans' book...it was originally submitted for the Veterans' section of the 2006 Manning Quasqui book.



Ryan on right: photo taken at Incirlik Airforce Base, Turkey

Ryan was inducted into the Air Force on May 28, 1997. He attended basic military training at Lackland AFB, Texas, and graduated in July 1997. Then he attended Technical training for the Medical Logistics Career field at Sheppard AFB, Texas, graduating in September 1997. Ryan was assigned to the 55 Medical Support Squadron at Offutt AFB, NE from September 1997 to May 1999. While assigned to the MDSS he performed Security Force duty for the 55 SFS, working as security for the E-4B and RC 135 Aircraft.

In May 1999 he was transferred to the 39th Medical Support Squadron in support of Operation Northern Watch at Incirlik AB, Turkey where he performed security for the F-15 and F-16 aircraft. He also performed medical logistical duties at

one of only two bomb blast protected hospitals in the world.

In August of 2000, Ryan was transferred to the 99th Medical Support Squadron at Nellis, AFB, Nevada, where he helped with the transfer of over \$50,000 worth of equipment and supplies in support of the relief effort in New York City after the 9/11 twin tower disaster. Then in September 2001 he was transferred to Iowa Air National Guard in Des Moines for one year before re-enlisting to Active Duty in September 2002 and stationed at Scott AFB, Illinois. There he managed over \$300,000 worth of medical equipment for the 375th Medical Support Squadron.

In September of 2003 he was transferred to Kunsan AB, South Korea, for one year. He was assigned to the 8th Medical Support Squadron where he helped manage 15 War Reserve Material Projects used for defense of South Korea. In September 2004 he was transferred to Offutt AFB, Nebraska, working as a Non-Commissioned Officer in charge of Medical War Reserve material for the 55th Medical Support Squadron. As of 2005, Ryan holds the rank of Staff Sergeant and has received the following medals: Air Force Achievement (4 times), Korean Defense, Good Conduct, National Defense and Global War on Terror Medals. Ryan notes that in May of 2005 he has served 8 years of service to this country called "America the Beautiful."

For this next Veteran I have no military pictures and nothing more than what his obituary provides about his service.

He was born near Manning, graduated from MHS in 1942 and then moved to the Arcadia area where he lived and worked.

His last living sibling, Duane Meggers, passed away recently so it will be difficult to find someone with information, unless his nieces or nephews come forward. The odds of them finding this article or researching Manning history on the Internet and finding my web page requests are slim to none so this will, sadly, be another Veteran without a military picture or specifics about his service.

If there is a cousin or other relative out there who reads this article and can help, please contact me.

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#61 William E. Meggers (no pictures, only his obituary)



1 Duane Meggers, 2 Ed Meggers, 3 Bill Meggers, 4 Wilma Gruhn, 5 Jeanette Gruhn, 6 Robert Meeves, 7 Daryle Rowedder, 8 Gary Rowedder?, 9 Emil Meggers, 10 Margaret Meeves, 11 Marlyn Gruhn, 12 Linda Meggers, 13 Myrene Rowedder, 14 Dorthea Meggers, Delton Gruhn without a number

William, son of William and Elvira (Gruhn) Meggers, was born August 16, 1924, at Manning. Bill grew up on a farm northwest of Manning and graduated from Manning High School in 1942. After his schooling he farmed with his father.

From 1948 to 1951 Bill served with the United States Army and attained the rank of Private First Class. After his honorable discharge, Bill returned to Manning and continued farming with his father, as well as his brother until 1977. He then ran a tavern and a bowling alley in Arcadia, called Arcadia Recreation, later renamed to Bill's Place, and retired in 1989. Bill then worked for a number of years at Hy-Vee in the bakery department in Carroll.

Bill was a member of Zion Lutheran Church in Arcadia. He was also a member of the American Legion of which he served in the county offices.

He had two brothers: Edward and Duane, and one sister, Dorothea Ehlers.

For this next Veteran (John Miller) I had basically no military information about him until I was going through Jack Lorenzen's military scrapbook recently, and we interviewed Bob Wegner. Jack had a newspaper clipping about John and Bob made a reference to John serving in Korea.

I never know where I'll get this type of information and anything I find may be all that I get for a Veteran.

#62 John F. Miller (no pictures, odds & ends sources)



The only picture I have of John is this badly faded picture I scanned from the display in the VFW hall in Manning when he was the 1957 commander.

Information Robert Wegner told in his military write-up that mentions John Miller.

The 38th Parallel was the dividing line between North and South Korea, and border skirmishes and raids had persisted since WWII had ended.

The situation escalated into open warfare when North Korean forces invaded South Korea June 25, 1950, and UN troops - 88% from the United States - were called in to help South Korea repel the invasion. The defenders were nearly driven out of their country by September 1950.

John Miller from Manning was one of the US troops attempting to hold the line, and his unit was forced to the ocean.

With the US and twenty other countries aiding South Korean forces, over the next two months they drove the North Koreans past the 38th Parallel and almost to the Yalu River at the Chinese border.

Article from Jack Lorenzen's scrapbook.

War Experience Told By Veteran of Korean Action

Devastation of war can be appreciated only by those who have witnessed a country laid bare by the ravages of modern warfare.

That is the thought of Corporal John Miller, son of Mr. and Mrs. Walt D. Miller, Manning, who returned from Korean battle fronts last week after more than eight months of duty in that nation.

Corporal Miller was recalled to service as an inactive reservist last September. Prior to that time he had served from January 31, 1949, to February 22, 1950, part of his duty being in Japan.

After his recall he was flown from Fort Lewis, Washington, via Alaska and the Aleutians to Japan in November 1950. The trip required 36 hours of flying time. After a brief stay in Japan, his outfit - Company I, Seventh Regiment, Third Division - landed at Wonsan, Korea, November 17. The Manning corporal was a BAR - heavy automatic rifleman.

After a few weeks of front-line action, John was assigned to driving a jeep for Captain Grogan and on February 2 was transferred to regimental service as a mechanic. He was serving in that capacity when his shipping orders came.

John joined a replacement company at Seoul July 7 and went to Inchon from where they were to leave the country. Because of heavy concentration of shipping, however, they were sent to Pusan and on July 18 left for Japan, arriving the following day.

After five days in Sasebo, Japan, they went by train to Yokohama and left by ship for the states on July 22, arriving at San Francisco, August 2. John received his release from duty at Camp Carson, Colorado, and his parents met him in Omaha last Wednesday.

In recounting some of his experiences in Korea, John reported that the most touching scenes were the natives being shuttled back and forth from their homes as the tide of battle changed. The pitiful plight of the little children was also "hard to take." Villages south of Seoul, he said, were not as heavily damaged as those northward where fighting has been most concentrated.

North Koreans and Red Chinese troops suffered untold casualties during the months John was there. Chinese troops, as though doped, charged into the face of murderous United Nations fire, often being forced to travel over piles of their own dead in wave-after-wave suicidal offensives, he recalled.

Most vicious among the men carrying United Nations colors, John said, were the Turks. They fought with rifles until ammunition was exhausted and then resorted to their sabers and knives.

Heaviest fighting experienced by Co. I was in the Chosen reservoir sector when troops went to help evacuate U.S. marines who had been cut off from their supplies. Bitter cold weather also took a heavy toll of troops who suffered frostbite and subsequent amputations.

Prior to leaving Korea, John found a fellow Manning soldier, Jack Lorenzen, who coincidentally was driving jeep for Captain Grogan - the same officer previously driven by the local vet.

John says it seems unreal to be sleeping in his own bed at home again. During his tenure as automatic rifleman there were no beds, but later as a mechanic he managed to sleep on an old reliable array cot.

Although subject to recall for further military duty until 1955, John is planning on farming the home place with his dad a mile and a half west of Manning. During spare time he is viewing several reels of movies he took while stationed in Korea, but that's as close as he wants to get to the country again.

Excerpts from John's obituary:

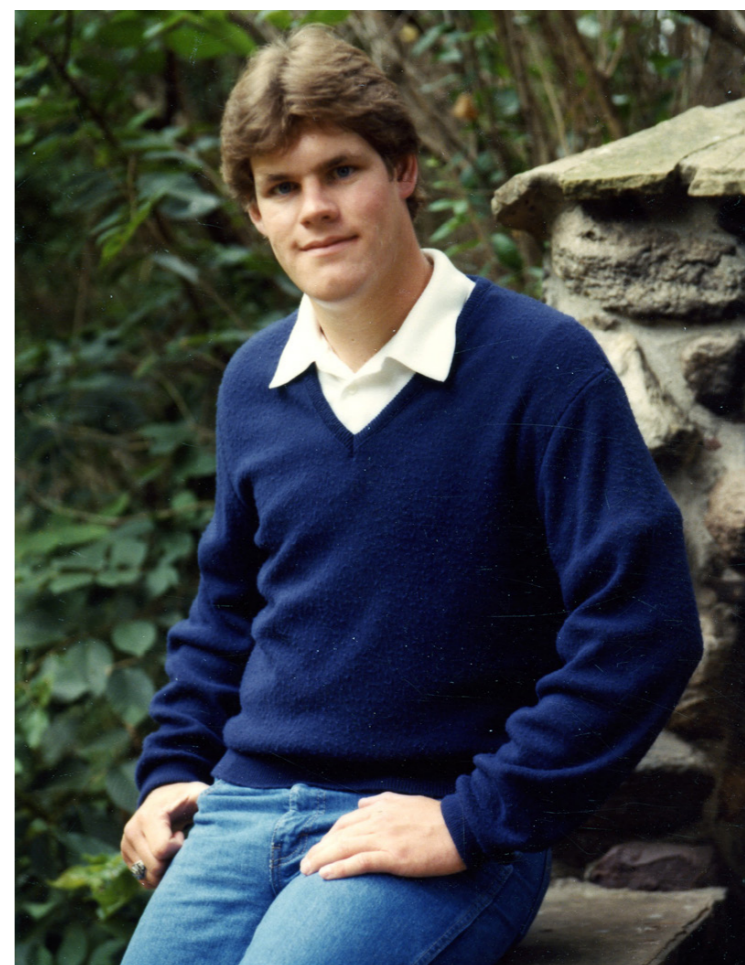
John was born at St. Anthony Hospital in Carroll on April 16, 1925, a son of Walter D. Emma H. (Pruter) Miller, who lived near Manning. He attended school in Manning and graduated from Manning High School in 1943.

He served with the United States Army during the occupation of Japan and was later recalled to duty in the Korean conflict. He was discharged as a corporal.

John worked as a mechanic at the Chevrolet Garage in Manning and later farmed and operated a farm machinery repair shop. On June 5, 1958, he was married to Mary Ann Beaver by the Rev. Carl Sinning at her parents' home at Detroit Lakes, Minnesota. During the 1960s and 1970s he operated the Miller Implement Company in Manning. He worked at the M&I Dehy plant for the past several years.

He was active, in the Veterans of Foreign Wars; serving as commander and quartermaster. At one time he was chosen as All-State quartermaster. He was also a member of Emil Ewoldt Post No. 22, American Legion, the Presbyterian church where he served as a trustee, Manual Lodge No. 450, A.F. & A.M. and Salona Chapter No. 231, Order of Eastern Star.

John died January 18, 1985. He had a daughter, Jane Beasley who passed away in 2011, and a son, David, who served in the Air Force.



David Miller completed basic training at Lackland AFB, San Antonio, Texas in June 1984 and completed technical school at Keesler AFB in Biloxi, Mississippi in August 1984. He was assigned to the Headquarters of Strategic Air Command at Offutt AFB in Omaha, Nebraska from August 1984 through December 1987. In January 1988 he was assigned to the 6770th Tactical Support Squadron of the Pacific Air Forces in Suwon Air Base, South Korea. From February 1989 through June 1995 he was assigned to the Department of Athletics at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Staff Sergeant Miller was discharged in June 1995. He received the following medals: National Defense Service; Good Conduct with two oak leaves; U.S. Air Force Achievement; U.S. Air Force Accommodation with one oak leaf and the Information Management and Administration Badge.

John Miller concluded on page 2.