

CITIZEN OF THE MONTH

John Redmond



Store. Following graduation, John was employed at Genesco and Colonial Bread Company. He then worked at the Coca-Cola Company for 10 years.

In the late 1960's, John reported for active duty with the U.S. Army and eventually was sent to Viet Nam. On December 31, 1967 the unit he was assigned to was patrolling a roadway. Around 1:00 a.m. the unit was hit with an RPG round. Eighteen of the soldiers in the unit were killed. John was seriously wounded and was burned over a large portion of his body.

On January 6, 1968 John's family in Tennessee was notified that he had been killed in action. Devastated, the family mourned the loss of brother, son and father. On January 23, the family was notified again that John had lost his life. Confusion now invaded the families' mourning and uncertainty about the circumstances of his death surfaced.

At the same time, John was a half a world away in Southeast Asia beginning the slow recovery from the injuries he received. Finally on February 2, 1968, John regained consciousness and was able to communicate to his caregivers. Joyfully, on February 27, 1968 the family received the news that John was alive.

Over the next year, John was treated in hospitals in Japan, Ft. Sam Houston, and Nashville. He received two purple hearts for his service in the Army and he eventually came home to Eagleville.

John leads an active life, is often on the go, and makes friends wherever he is. He rarely misses a community event in Eagleville such as Chittlin sup-

pers, the tractor show and the horseshows. He strongly supports Eagleville School activities and is a dedicated fan of the sports teams there. He is a long time member of the Lions Club, Eagleville Chapter and is always on hand and ready to help with their projects.

John's tragic experience in Viet Nam makes all of us pause and reflect. Yet, John communicates a positive outlook on life and enjoys every day to the fullest. Eagleville is fortunate to have a hero among us and a living reminder of all those who have sacrificed for our country. We are blessed and better for our relationship with John Redmond.



John in his golf cart, ready to cruise Eagleville.

Small towns are known for colorful characters, and Eagleville is no exception. John Redmond is perhaps most easily recognized cruising through town in his golf cart waving to friends and visiting the merchants in Eagleville. He is a regular at the Dairy Bar, opens up Joyce's Beauty Shack for her on Thursdays, and counts those who work at the Drug Center as friends.

John Redmond, the son of Irene Lorance, born in 1941 is the oldest of eight children. He remains close to his four sisters, Virginia, Betty, Jessie and Barbara and two surviving brothers Herbert and Larry. His brother Jimmy is deceased and missed by this close-knit family. John has two daughters, Jamie and Emily and one very cute two-year-old granddaughter, Occoe.

John grew up in Eagleville and attended all twelve years at Eagleville School. While in high school he worked at Howard Marshall's Grocery