

# *Truzell DeRamus*

**CONTRIBUTED BY: DENISE CARR-DERAMUS**

My name is Denise Carr-DeRamus, and I am the widow of Truzell DeRamus, SFC, US Army. We were together for 32 years. Truzell was born 10/12/34 in Autauga County, Alabama. He attended school in Autauga County and dropped out in the 10th grade. He moved in with his uncle in Birmingham and worked at a restaurant until he joined the Army in 1953. He joined the Army to have a career and a better his opportunities in life.

While in the Army his jobs were cook, artillery, and eventually, recruiter. His medals included the Bronze Star earned during the Viet Nam War, The Army of Occupation (Germany), Good Conduct Medal (1-5th Awd), National Defense Medal, Combat Infantry Badge, Expert Infantry Badge, Republic of Vietnam Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal w/60 Device, United States Army Recruiting Badge. Truzell joined the Army in 1953 which was 5 years after the President made racial discrimination unlawful in the military, so he was in Korea during the years when the military was beginning to integrate. Being in Korea at that time was challenging because of racial integration issues and being in a war zone. He was considered a Korean War Veteran because he was in Korea at the end of the Korean War. Additionally, he did a tour in Viet Nam in which he fought in the First Tet Offensive, earning the Bronze Medal. The Bronze Star Medal recognizes service members who show acts of heroism in the field, or who are meritorious in their work. To qualify, service members must perform these acts during an armed conflict against an enemy of the United States. He served in Viet Nam for one year.

Truzell retired from the military in 1973. He then attended school at the University of Massachusetts/Dartmouth and earned his bachelor's degree in Multi-Disciplinary Studies with a focus on Political Science. He worked with one of his military supervisors who owned a rental car business and worked as a youth counselor with at-risk youth. He was a member of Disabled Veterans of America and Viet Nam Veterans of America.

Truzell moved back to Prattville, Alabama in 1995 when he was no longer well enough to continue to work. He passed away in 2004 from complications of chemical exposure during the Viet Nam War and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. His remains are currently interred at the National Cemetery in Montevallo, Alabama.

