

NATIONAL GUARDSMAN JERRY P SIMS By Richard Long

A tale of two brothers and a single Mom. Ben, older by 3 years ,was Jerry's male role model. Ben, at 18 joined the Army National Guard, Company B, 158th Infantry Brigade. So, Jerry did too. He was 15!! Jerry admits to needing structure and discipline at this time in his life so Mom was happy to sign allowing for the enlistment. They "adjusted" his DOB and boom, he could buy beer on post! A storefront physician on S 6th Ave, Tucson put his hand on Jerry's forehead and declared him fit for duty.

Off to Fort Ord, CA for three 8 week long training programs. He thought this an interesting, fascinating and fun adventure. He's attending infantry school. He grinned remembering being called out of formation and asked if he'd like an Article 15 or a Court Martial. Seems he'd neglected to stamp his shoes with his identity. He opted for 3 weeks mess hall KP, was such an obliging worker they excused him after only a week.

His third 8 week training was advanced infantry—an actual wartime simulation. They marched into the boondocks, lived in a tent, slept on the ground, and dealt with tear and chlorine gases. When the exercise was over, the company marched back to post, 3 days, 54 miles.

After his six months of training and receiving a GED from the army, Jerry returned to his junior year of high school and worked his way to a Masters degree in Electrical Engineering.

Private First Class Sims, we honor you and thank you for your service.