

Ted Poss bio interviewed by David Bledsoe



Ted was born in Aurora, IL on October 3, 1946. Aurora is about 35 miles outside of Chicago. He attended Annunciation Catholic School through 8th grade and graduated from Naperville High School in 1964. He completed the Iron Workers Local 393 trade school shortly after graduating high school.

Ted's favorite subject in school was math. "Back then, we called it arithmetic". He also enjoyed geography and woodshop.

As a teenager, Ted enjoyed fishing, vegetable and flower gardening, all of which he continues to enjoy today. He played middle linebacker on intramural football teams. He and his family enjoyed swimming often in the 10 acre lake on the family farm. Ted enjoyed dancing Friday nights at the Aurora YMCA.

Aside from the never ending 7 days a week chores of the family farm, Ted hired out for 50 cents an hour after school with his neighbor's greenhouse business. Ted became enthralled with the greenhouse's main production of flowers such as the African Violets.

Working on tractors, smelling the freshly tilled soil is one of the things Ted liked most with the family farm. The farming community was pretty much self-contained with neighbors helping neighbors. "We all knew each other for miles around". But with the never ending chores required with running a farm, "we were seldom afforded the opportunity of taking a break". Ted's weekly allowance was \$2.45 which he used to purchase lunch at school each week.

At the age of 18, Ted received a letter from Uncle Sam who was looking for a few more good men. He was subsequently drafted into the US Army and within a few short months in 1965 began serving our nation in the rice patties & jungles in the harsh climate and conditions of Southeast Asia's Vietnam. During Ted's time of service in the Army's 2nd/7 of 1st Air Cavalry, his unit had a casualty rate of over 90%. His unit fought in some of the fiercest battles of the 8 year Vietnam War. Ted served his unit as a demolition expert and as an unofficial photographer. Upon returning home, as one might expect, Ted stashed his pictures in the closet and simply tried to be a good citizen and forget about the carnage the conflict had presented. Just recently, after 44 years in the closet, he pulled about 160 old photographs out and had them restored. Ted's restoration of the old photographs have also assisted in bringing restoration and reconciliation for himself and those he served with as he has shared the photographs at recent reunions.

In 1967 while on military leave, Ted's sister introduced him to her friend Nancy whom she worked with at the local Ace Hardware store. A couple of years later, Ted and Nancy met again at a social. The couple hit it off immediately with Nancy allowing Ted to take her home that evening. Ted says it was Nancy's smile and charming personality that attracted and eventually overwhelmed him. Eleven months later on April 11, 1970 they were married at St Rita's Catholic Church in Aurora. Ted and Nancy lived in Aurora until their move to Atlanta in 2006. In 2008, they moved to Franklin to be close to their children and grandchildren. Ted and Nancy have enjoyed sharing their passion of working with church youth confirmation groups. They enjoy camping and travelling as often as possible.

In 1977 Ted & Nancy formed Metric Steel Erectors, Inc. operating the company for 29 years. They enjoyed the business tremendously building several schools and various other types of structures. They enjoyed bringing everything together, coordinating & working with people and the satisfaction of delivering the completed product to the owners. To avoid working outside in the harshest Northern IL winter months, Ted and Nancy would purchase older homes in the fall, rehab them in the winter and resale them in the spring. Their children would often join in on the rehab work. Ted liked climbing iron, running big heavy equipment and considers it less dangerous than driving down the highway.

The most awe-inspiring moment in Ted's life was in the 1980's while visiting his brother at Oregon's Mt Angels Monastery. He felt like he had a one on one experience with God and says it was the most peaceful place he has ever been.

Ted has spent a lot of time in the past 6 months taking still life painting classes and has surprised even himself with the gift he has heretofore never realized he possessed. We look forward to seeing some of these works of Art.

In the fall of 2009, Ted began serving with Habitat for Humanity of Williamson County after receiving a referral through St Philip Catholic Church where he and Nancy joined upon their move to Franklin in 2008. He relishes the camaraderie and the ability to talk and serve with other Christians while eliminating sub-standard housing in our community ... one family at a time. Ted's favorite build would be Habitat High. The High School teachers have taken notice and remarked about his patience and ability in instructing the teenage volunteers. Ted especially enjoys Dedication Sundays watching the homeowners' expressions as they take ownership and express gratitude for all those who served. Ted says "I find Habitat extremely rewarding and feel a little guilty because I get more out of Habitat than Habitat gets out of me."