

In honor of Kerry Metoxen – 10/25/23

By Secretary Designee WI Dept. Of Veteran Affairs, James Bond

Kerry joined the United States Airforce in January of 1980. After graduating bootcamp at Lackland AFB in San Antonio, Texas, he attended technical school in Rantoul, Illinois at the Chanute AFB where he became an avionics technician. His first couple duty stations landed him and his wife Colleen, who he married 4 years before joining the service, in McGuire AFB in New Jersey, and then in 1983, at the K.I. Sawyer AFB in the U.P. where he worked on C-141, B-52, and KC135 aircrafts. Sawyer AFB, located in Marquette County, Michigan, was decommissioned in 1995, just 9 years after Kerry was stationed there, and is now the Sawyer International Airport.

In 1986, Kerry received a special duty assignment at Robins AFB, just south of Macon, GA. There, he assessed and repaired aircraft battle damage for C-130 and C-141 aircraft. From 1989-1990, He was deployed to Thumrait, Oman and King Khali, Kuwait in support of Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm. Receiving orders in 1990, Kerry moved him and his family to Torrejon AFB in Madrid, Spain for 4 years, and then to Rota Naval Station, also located in Spain. After his "European Excursion" he returned to the United States where he was stationed at Dover AFB in Delaware. It is there that he retired in 2000 at the rank of Technical Sergeant.

After serving much of his life in the military, Kerry began his 20 year service to Oneida Nation Veterans as the Veteran Services Officer on May 11, 2003. During Kerry's time with Oneida, he assisted hundreds of veterans obtain multiple millions of dollars in claims for themselves, their spouses, and continuous pay for disabilities. Those that know Kerry, know that he goes out of his way to serve the veterans.