



**Veteran of the Month
March 2003**

**Congratulations to
Walter P. Best!**

In partnership with the Veterans Coordination Commission, I am pleased to present the March 2003 Veteran of the Month – Walter P. Best.

Walter P. Best entered the United States Air Force in December of 1950 and after training was assigned to the 307th Bomber Squadron, Kadena Air Base, Naha, Okinawa. Walter was flying B-29 missions over Korea while assigned to the 307th and in December of 1952, returned to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on active reserve status flying B-29's while studying at Pittsburgh University, furthering his education.

Walter Best was recalled to active duty in December of 1955 and ordered to Great Falls Air Force Base in Montana. While in Montana he flew KB-29's and KC-97's refueling aircraft. In 1961 Walter was transferred to Ben Guier, Morocco where he was assigned to the C-47 and C-54 aircraft transporting troops and cargo to and from Upper Heyford, England.

In 1965 Mr. Best arrived at Ellsworth AFB where he flew on EC-135 Command Aircraft for the Strategic Air Command. In 1967 Walter was assigned to the HC-130 Rescue Aircraft flying in Viet Nam and in 1969 he returned to Ellsworth Air Force Base in reserve status. He retired in 1981.

In 1976 Mr. Best joined the Disabled American Veterans and was elected Commander in 1979. He rejoined the Veterans of Foreign Wars becoming a member of Rushmore Post #1273 in 1974 and was VFW local commander in 1994 and District 10 Commander in 2001, attaining All State District Commander status as Team Captain. Walter volunteered at Ft Meade VA daily from 1985 to 1987 and continues today to volunteer with the VA, making hospital visits and helping where needed, he visits the VA Hospitals and the State Veterans Home in Hot Springs on a regular basis. Walter P. Best is a veteran who is still serving his country.