

## **Dan Beck**

Lowe Veterans Appreciation Video – November 11, 2020

My name is Dan Beck. I've always lived here in Clinton County and I ended up being a fruit grower and a retail businessman along Highway 27. So then I got drafted, you know. Why I had I was exempt because of Korean War was on. While I was in ROTC and I was exempt. So when I graduated I would have been a second lieutenant and I would have been sent right to Korea where things were hot. But they weren't hot then.

Later I found out the unit I was in the army. When we got done with our training, I wanted to go to Germany, but I was told we're going to go to Korea. Well, it's a good thing I didn't go in the R-, the job they gave everybody because we were engineers to dig out the old mines from the past work that has been done there and either blow them up or dig them out. I didn't have - I saw found that out because some of the guys that I was with in training they had went over there, they came back to muster out to go home. So that's how I found that out.

They had a program when you're off at night, if you went to college George Washington University, they would pay your tuition, books, and everything else. So at night I signed up for a couple courses and I went to George Washington University at night.

I did a lot of crazy things, but I had a lot of fun too, you know. So I got towards the end of my work there and they called me in several times and talked to me about it. They said, we got the U. S. Army has a program right now that they're trying to get people from the ranks that are highly qualified to go to West Point and we want you to go. All your test scores and everything says you should go to West Point. I says well, thank you, sir. I just want to serve my time and go home.

But being in the engineers, of course, we played with explosives a lot and I like I say they allow you one mistake. But at home, when I was a young man, I thought I [?] helping my Granddad or Dad blow up stuff. And so I had a jolly good time with the explosives because I was used to them and some of those guys were scared to death of that, you know, cause we did, we shot off stuff. It was making a terrible noise.

So I had a lot of fun. It was like a paid vacation.