

## Roy Harger

Lowe Veterans Appreciation Video – November 11, 2020

I am here honoring my father, Roy Sylvester Harger, even though he hated, hated his middle name. He was in the U. S. Army. He was drafted and he went in October 1951 and he was honorably discharged in October of 1953.

He was a truck driver. He went down for, actually his basic training was in Fort Breckenridge in Kentucky, and right after basic training, he was sent to Germany, where he drove truck. And what did which I think is kind of interesting, he drove for the troops that was in Germany. He drove them food, and he took the food out. And he said that one of the things that he was very kind of impressed with, he always took the Autobahn to a lot of the places and he said he was - of course the army trucks he drove didn't go very fast. But he said he was always very impressed by how fast everybody passed him. And so he said that was he was very impressed by that.

He, before he was drafted, my mother graduated in June of 1951 and they got married a week after she graduated. He knew he was being drafted and so he he didn't want to wait. He was afraid she was going to find somebody else. So he married her, just like I said, a week after she graduated.

And but he, when he got to Germany, he found out that his cousin was there. Now his cousin was quite a bit older than he was and he was a career army man. Excuse me, and he had rank. And so, he would come and pick dad up and they would go sightseeing around Germany and take him out to eat. Dad would even spend nights at his home, which was off base.

But any – also, and I don't know if this was just once or more than once, but they went to Italy and sightseeing. And I asked my mom, I said, did the other guys in Dad's barrack, you know, is his platoon or whatever. Were they kind of jealous and mom goes, you know what, Dad never said, but she said, I bet they were you know, because they had to stay there and eat army food when he would go and and he'd have fun with with his cousin and - and because his cousin had rank, you know, it was okay.

So, but and he actually, in May of 1953, his mother became very, very ill. He was the youngest and she wanted to see him so they did let him come home in May of 1953. He was home for a month and she recovered. They thought she was going to die actually, but she recovered and then because he only had four more months before he was going to be discharged they sent him to Sault Saint Marie. So my mother got to go with him to Sault Saint Marie. And, and she said, she enjoyed being up there, seeing all the big boats and everything. And so, but and and that's what he did up there. He was part of the Army Corps that guarded the, the Soo Locks.

On Veterans Day. My dad's birthday is Veterans Day and this year he would have been 90 years old and because of covid I planned on doing a card shower for him. And I know he would have loved that. And so I feel kind of bad that, you know, he he passed, you know, a couple months before his birthday. But and kind of a funny story when I was growing up, when I was a lot younger. My dad always got his birthday off. He worked for the Road Commission in Clinton County and that was one of the things every guy got the birthday off. Well, my dad told me and, of course it was Veterans Day and there was always parades. My dad belonged to the VFW, and so, he always went to parades. And my dad always told me he was so important on his birthday, not only did he get the day off, but everybody had a parade because of his

birthday. And when I was little, I thought that was true. So but as I got older, I realized it. Yeah. It was just Veterans Day, but, but, but I thought my dad was very, very special when I was younger. So, yeah, having a parade on his birthday.