

# A VETERAN'S STORY

## Raymond "Sarge" Hughes ARMY 1952-54 | NATIONAL GUARD

Raymond (Sarge) Hughes was born in Barron County, WI on August 30, 1931. He had a brother and two sisters and was the oldest of the four siblings.

Raymond attended Barron elementary and middle schools and graduated from Barron High School in 1949.

Raymond enlisted in the Army in 1952 because "Uncle Sam said so." The United States had just completed its part in World War II and the Cold War was really starting to heat up. Most young men were drafted or enlisted in one of the service branches during this time period.

Raymond enlisted at an Army recruiting station in Minneapolis, MN. He recalls his family felt worse about him enlisting than he did - but he admits he was a little-teary-eyed when it came to leaving home.

Raymond was picked up on a bus in Barron at 6:30 am and head off to boot camp. He spent 16 weeks in basic training at Camp Roberts in California. He recalls it was "hotter than a thistle," while he was there.

Raymond completed his training and eventually was sent overseas to Korea. While stationed there, he remembers living in squad tents and bunkers and

getting capsules or cans (often unmarked) to heat up rations and meals. You never knew what or when you were going to be eating. These MREs (Meals Ready to Eat) were pretty standard rations for those in the Army. Some soldiers used their helmets to boil or heat up what was in the canned meal capsules.

Raymond remembers communicating to loved ones back home through letters while he was in Korea. You'd write a letter and "hope it gets there."

In 1954, Raymond was discharged and headed back to the United States. He had served his time, reached the rank of sergeant and was ready to go home. He joined the National

Guard for a few years after his time in the Army, then went to work for a survey company in Rice Lake, where he met his wife Gloria (she was working for a bank in Rice Lake at the time).

Raymond and Gloria were married on May 15, 1954. The couple moved to Chippewa Falls and Raymond went to work for an engineering company in Eau Claire. He worked there for 30 years. Raymond and Gloria had five children together (three boys and two girls).



*Today, Raymond lives in an apartment at Chippewa Manor Residential Living in Chippewa Falls, WI*

Presented 11/10/22