



HARVEY KING

First Lieutenant, Army Signal Corp
United States Army
January 11, 1951 - August 29, 1953.

I was 20 or 21 years old and had been married three days when I was drafted. I had been working for Texas Power and Light, in Hillsboro, Texas, while waiting for the army to come get me.

I went through basic training in Camp Chaffee, Arkansas, and then applied for OCS (Officer Candidate School). I was accepted, completed training in the 2nd Corps in OCS, and became a 2nd Lt. I always told every- body that I was a ninety-day wonder, but it took 180 days to make it.

About six months after I received my commission, and I was shipped overseas. The major who made assignments when we got to Japan, said, "I'm going to do you guys a favor and have you stationed here in Japan. You can get your family over here in nine months. The only thing was, in nine months, I was getting out of the service. I think I was very fortunate, and feel like it was in God's hands that we were chosen to stay in Japan. We were stationed at Camp Senhai, north of Tokyo. The assignment of 2nd Lieutenants usually was

as forward observers, and it was my understanding that they didn't last very long.

When I returned home, I went to North Texas State Teachers College, now the University of North Texas, and received my degree. I had two, about two years of college credit before I went into the service, but I had not done real well. When I started again, I decided that it was time to get serious and try to learn how to make a living.

Being in the military was quite an experience for a country boy who had picked cotton, worked in a grocery store, had a Dallas Morning News paper route for several years. In the service I had to grow up. I had a godly mother and father, who gave me good training, but feel that I grew up a whole lot when I got into service. When I got out, I'm sure that Dad was proud to see that I had matured a little bit, and he didn't have to watch after me too much.

When I got out of college, I went to work for Brookshire Grocery Company, a Christian-oriented type of business. My wife and I are very fortunate to be able to live in Tyler. We were members of the First Baptist Church for about 25 years before we joined Green Acres Baptist Church five years ago.

I believe that the patriotism today probably is as strong today as it was during the Korean War. We just haven't had any reason to show it. With the recent problems we've had with the attack September the 11th, I feel like the patriotism has blossomed. We still have a strong nation.

My wife and I have one son. He's married, and he and his family live in the Tyler area. We have two grandchildren. My son came to work for Brookshire Grocery Company after working elsewhere for a few years.