

# POST WORLD WAR II VETERAN DONALD P WALKER

by Richard Long

Everyone's favorite Sunflower photographer, Don Walker, was drafted into the US ARMY on 25 August 1952 at the age of 22. He was ordered to report to Fort Ord, California. Upon arrival and induction exercises, he began basic training. After a couple weeks, it was Don's turn to go to the Rifle Range for weapons handling and target practice. There it was discovered that he had a severe nerve issue in his left ear—an extremely painful nerve issue when around loud noises! As a result, he was transferred to Fort Ord's 313th MP Criminal Investigation Detachment. That job involved doing investigations for personnel security clearances as well as other types of criminal investigations.

It was while training for service there that Don received a call from his Mother. She was in a panic because all kinds of military personnel were going up and down their street asking questions of the neighbors about Don. She was sure he was doing something he wasn't supposed to be doing—a 22 year old and his first time away from home! Of course, in 1952, this was the normal process for the important investigation of a person's background. Don did his entire two year tour of active duty in that detachment at Fort Ord, as well as his 6 years of reserve time. Also, Don's only child was born there.

Don, we honor you and thank you for your service.



Don Walker