

Highlighting Heroes: Joe Canini

Lanesboro Active Living Center Volunteer Meals On Wheels Delivery Driver

Joe wasn't out of school long before he decided to enlist into the US Army Air Force, during its final year of existence. After one year, he returned home and went to work at Penelec for a year. After comparing the two, he decided to re-enlist into the newly forged US Air Force and make a career of it. He enjoyed his time in the US Defense, dedicating the next nearly 10 years of his life to our country, some of which was as military police. He spent a lot of time in Korea, with the final three years of service in Reserves.

When Joe discharged for the second and final time in 1956, he went to a burgeoning engineering supply manufacturing company in Binghamton, called Azon Corp, as one of its 15 employees. When he retired from Azon, it had over 30,000 staff.

While Joe left the military, he was not done serving his community. In 1963 he agreed to work part-time as patrolman for the Susquehanna Depot, while still working full-time at Azon. He also found time to meet a wonderful woman and raise a family. When he retired from Azon, he shifted his focus and went full-time for the local police. That soon encompassed not just Susquehanna, but also Oakland and Lanesboro as well. Joe continued his time with the police force until he retired in 1995.

However, once again, Joe was not finished taking care of his fellow residents. Four years after retiring as a police officer, Joe reached out to the local senior center, asking if they needed help with anything. Since 1999, Joe has been a volunteer Meals On Wheels driver, providing in-home delivery of meals to seniors in need in and around Susquehanna Depot.

Joe has been a member of the American Legion for 55yrs and enjoys it, as well as seeing people he used to deliver meals to now out & about while the weather is warm. They always stop and chat for a bit.

When asked, Joe related he thinks everyone should do at least two years of service, for the life lessons learned, experience gained. "We were all better people, I think, for it!"

Thank you Joe, and the other veterans, for your service, both in and out of the military!