

**Pietro “Pete” Lacalamita**  
**Army Veteran**

***Pietro Lacalamita***, who served in the U.S. Army in Germany during the early 1960s, recounted his experiences from enlistment to retirement. Born in 1939, he joined the Army at 20, spending three years in service, primarily stationed near Frankfurt. Assigned to infantry duty, he later became a squad leader, training new troops and participating in routine drills and combat exercises.

Reflecting on his role, he emphasized the importance of military service in shaping individuals into responsible adults. He described his transition from a young recruit to a squad leader, responsible for guiding new soldiers and leading training exercises.

Despite his infantry background, he eventually became a driver, chauffeuring officers to various locations, including during President Kennedy's visit to Frankfurt.

Throughout his service, he maintained a strict code of confidentiality, keeping silent about his encounters and the conversations he overheard while driving officers. Despite the intrigue surrounding his duties, he remained focused on his responsibilities, understanding the importance of discretion in his role.

Upon completion of his service, he returned to New York and pursued a career with the state's park system. Starting as a laborer, he worked his way up to become a superintendent, overseeing three parks in the White Plains area.

He retired in 1962 at a relatively young age, after approximately 20 years of service with the state. Overall, his story highlights the transformative impact of military service and the importance of dedication.

**Pete Lacalamita**

**We thank you for Your Service!**