

Lance Corporal Sharon Bender: A Life of Service and Leadership

Sharon Bender, a proud U.S. Marine, grew up in Columbia, PA, before her family moved to Baltimore, MD. Walking to work each day, she often encountered Marine recruiters who encouraged her to enlist. Their persistence paid off, and in March 1969, Sharon joined the Marine Corps.

She reported to Parris Island for basic and MOS training, where she spent three transformative months. Sharon then selected Arlington, VA, as her duty station and was assigned to the Pentagon. As a secretary for a colonel, she served with distinction for one and a half years, earning the rank of E-3 Lance Corporal.

Sharon cherished her time in the Marines, taking pride in making her father proud and embracing the lessons she learned. Those experiences shaped her life, instilling discipline and a sense of purpose that carried through her 30-year career in the insurance industry.

Today, Sharon is a valued member of the Sunflower Veterans Club, where she is set to serve as the next president. Her leadership and dedication inspire others, and she is eager to see more sister veterans join the club's meetings.

Sharon's journey reflects the enduring impact of military service, both personally and professionally. She exemplifies the Marine Corps motto, *Semper Fidelis*—always faithful—in her life and her contributions to the veteran community. The Sunflower Veterans Club is fortunate to have such a committed and inspiring leader at its helm.