

Adkins, Bennie US Army

[00:00:16.51] JOE GALLOWAY: When and where were you born?

[00:00:18.44] BENNIE ADKINS: I was born in Waurika, Oklahoma. And this was-- I don't even want to talk about this This was in 1934.

[00:00:28.72] JOE GALLOWAY: Oh, you was in the middle of the Depression.

[00:00:31.84] BENNIE ADKINS: There you go.

[00:00:33.46] JOE GALLOWAY: Who were your family members?

[00:00:35.18] BENNIE ADKINS: Well, family member-- we were farmers, had a large family. I was right in the middle of the litter of-- there was a total of six boys and one girl.

[00:00:48.82] JOE GALLOWAY: Six boys and one poor girl.

[00:00:51.25] BENNIE ADKINS: One poor girl.

[00:00:52.54] JOE GALLOWAY: And what did your daddy do?

[00:00:54.28] BENNIE ADKINS: He was a farmer.

[00:00:55.51] JOE GALLOWAY: He was a farmer?

[00:00:56.45] BENNIE ADKINS: Yes.

[00:00:57.64] JOE GALLOWAY: And you consider that place in Oklahoma your hometown? That's where you went to school?

[00:01:03.76] BENNIE ADKINS: That's where I went to school, but I departed there in the early 1950s. And the reason behind that there was very little work for anyone at that time period and I had to seek employment. And then I started to college and dropped out of college. I run out of money, dropped out of college and I was a little bit more interested in the good looking girls than I were in the academics.

[00:01:46.42] JOE GALLOWAY: I see. How did you come to enter the military?

[00:01:55.02] BENNIE ADKINS: Well like I said, once I dropped out of college there was a little notice come to me that I am now number one on the draft list. So I was not unemployed but for a short time period.

[00:02:12.72] JOE GALLOWAY: Did you let them draft you or did you enlist?

[00:02:15.51] BENNIE ADKINS: I let them draft me.

[00:02:17.13] JOE GALLOWAY: And this was what year?

[00:02:18.94] BENNIE ADKINS: 1956.

[00:02:20.85] JOE GALLOWAY: '56. Right in the middle of a little bit of peace in this country.

[00:02:25.33] BENNIE ADKINS: Yes.

[00:02:31.65] JOE GALLOWAY: Where did they send you to boot camp?

[00:02:33.37] BENNIE ADKINS: Well, I'll tell you what. We went to a place of all places, Fort Bliss, Texas.

[00:02:40.96] JOE GALLOWAY: And you did basic there. Where did you do AIT?

[00:02:44.20] BENNIE ADKINS: Well, AIT there also. And the Army decided at that time period that I should be a clerk typist. Well, not a thing wrong with being a clerk typist. However, that didn't quite suit my needs.

[00:03:01.22] JOE GALLOWAY: So what did you do?

[00:03:02.74] BENNIE ADKINS: Well, once I completed the clerk typist school, the Army decided that I needed to go and be assigned to US Army garrison in Giessen, Germany. And so I was assigned to Germany as a clerk typist.

[00:03:23.17] JOE GALLOWAY: How long did you stay there?

[00:03:24.90] BENNIE ADKINS: I stayed there the full-- I finished up the full two years. And so that would have been about a year and a half.

[00:03:35.74] JOE GALLOWAY: And did you then get out of the Army?

[00:03:38.32] BENNIE ADKINS: No, I decided to stay in based upon the fact that I was doing something right. Because I was promoted all the way to a sergeant at that time.

[00:03:51.07] JOE GALLOWAY: Oh, three stripe buck sergeant.

[00:03:52.90] BENNIE ADKINS: That's correct, yes.

[00:03:54.28] JOE GALLOWAY: So you re-enlisted?

[00:03:55.93] BENNIE ADKINS: I re-enlisted and I decided at that time period I re-enlisted for the infantry and was assigned down to a little place known as Fort Benning, Georgia.

[00:04:09.61] JOE GALLOWAY: Fort Benning, Georgia. And what did you do there?

[00:04:13.78] BENNIE ADKINS: At Fort Benning, Georgia I was assigned to the 9th Infantry. And this was a basic training unit. And I spent some time as S2 of the unit. And then I was-- I did some work with the infiltration course for the trainees.

[00:04:43.12] JOE GALLOWAY: And how did you come to go to Vietnam?

[00:04:48.21] BENNIE ADKINS: Well, I'll tell you what, this-- I decided at-- after a period of time at Fort Benning that I still was a little bit bored, and heard of an organization called Special Forces. So I decided at that time period to give that a try. I volunteered for Special Forces. I volunteered to become a paratrooper. And I had to of course volunteer again for the military. And with that I went-- they reassigned-- the Special Forces accepted me and I was assigned to Special Forces training in Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

[00:05:36.04] JOE GALLOWAY: Did you do your jump school there as well?

[00:05:39.19] BENNIE ADKINS: That is correct, yes.

[00:05:40.33] JOE GALLOWAY: OK. All right. And what did your Special Forces folks declare your MOS?

[00:05:50.24] BENNIE ADKINS: They decided that I should be a Special Forces intel sergeant.

[00:05:55.81] JOE GALLOWAY: Intel sergeant.

[00:05:56.76] BENNIE ADKINS: Yes.

[00:05:57.07] JOE GALLOWAY: Very good. How soon after that did you get orders for Vietnam?

[00:06:07.17] BENNIE ADKINS: Well, I spent probably about close to a year and a half in training to become Special Forces qualified. And I think my training was cut just a little bit short, and I happened to be sitting on a submarine off the coast of Cuba at the Bay of Pigs waiting to see whether we would launch and go ashore or not.

[00:06:35.40] JOE GALLOWAY: And decided happily not to.

[00:06:37.62] BENNIE ADKINS: That is correct, yes. So that--

[00:06:41.40] JOE GALLOWAY: Cut that short.

[00:06:42.42] BENNIE ADKINS: That cut that one short. Then I was assigned initially then to a team that was to go into Laos. And the Laotian government changed so they just diverted me to South Vietnam. That was in early 1963.

[00:07:07.68] JOE GALLOWAY: '63. Early days in Vietnam. How did you get to Vietnam and where did you land?

[00:07:14.80] BENNIE ADKINS: All right. We went in a commercial aircraft and landed in Saigon. And like I said with that, at that time period there's always a little story I like to tell about this. They decided that I need some international driver's license.

[00:07:45.60] Well, they sent me to Saigon to get some international driver's license. And two days later, I made a parachute jump into a Montagnard village in Vietnam. And the only vehicles there was two World War II deuce-and-a-half trucks that wouldn't run and the village chief had a little pony. The reason I bring that up is that that picture, nine years later, 19 body wounds later, that picture shown up with so much bounty on me dead or alive by the North Vietnamese.

[00:08:27.91] JOE GALLOWAY: Oh, they wanted you.

[00:08:29.28] BENNIE ADKINS: That's right.

[00:08:30.33] JOE GALLOWAY: But that international driver's license never helped you.

[00:08:34.41] BENNIE ADKINS: That international driver's license was the photograph that the North Vietnamese got a hold of.

[00:08:46.39] JOE GALLOWAY: All right. And so what does the Special Forces assign you to do now that it's 1963 and you're floating around in Mekong?

[00:08:55.54] BENNIE ADKINS: I was at a little Special Forces A-team and we were training indigenous personnel to protect their own village, and this was--

[00:09:06.73] JOE GALLOWAY: What camp was that?

[00:09:08.80] BENNIE ADKINS: That was in Gia Vuc. And that happened to be what later become II Corps.

[00:09:16.81] JOE GALLOWAY: And what big town was anywhere close? Pleiku?

[00:09:22.54] BENNIE ADKINS: It was out in the mountains about 80 kilometers from Quang Ngai city.

[00:09:29.01] JOE GALLOWAY: Quang Ngai city.

[00:09:30.28] BENNIE ADKINS: Yes.

[00:09:31.39] JOE GALLOWAY: That was bad country.

[00:09:35.44] BENNIE ADKINS: It has been known to create a little problem.

[00:09:38.09] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah, now and then. Quang Ngai especially.

[00:09:41.80] BENNIE ADKINS: Yes.

[00:09:44.62] JOE GALLOWAY: How long did your tour last?

[00:09:46.85] BENNIE ADKINS: That was just a six month tour.

[00:09:48.58] JOE GALLOWAY: Six month tour.

[00:09:49.30] BENNIE ADKINS: Yes.

[00:09:50.44] JOE GALLOWAY: You went back home and did what?

[00:09:53.86] BENNIE ADKINS: Back home, then doing additional training, some specialty trainings. And then I was sent back again in 1965.

[00:10:07.81] JOE GALLOWAY: OK. And where did they send you that time?

[00:10:10.84] BENNIE ADKINS: That time I went initially into Nha Trang as a replacement. And this is-- kind of a story goes with that. A sergeant major up in I Corps come and got me and said, Bennie, I want to make you my C team intel sergeant. I said, you know that would be great. I said, I'll clear post and be up there in about two days.

[00:10:39.13] Well, two days later I did show up, and the sergeant major says I've got bad news. Said, old Sergeant Earl Petty out in the A Shau was just hit. We had to medevac him. Said, I've got to send you out there. Well, I went into the A Shau Camp and this was right in the middle of what had become known as the Ho Chi Minh Trail.

[00:11:02.71] JOE GALLOWAY: Exactly, this is where? To Lang Vei or-- ?

[00:11:06.34] BENNIE ADKINS: No, that was the A Shau Camp itself.

[00:11:08.68] JOE GALLOWAY: The A Shau Camp?

[00:11:09.70] BENNIE ADKINS: Yes.

[00:11:10.84] JOE GALLOWAY: That was really bad country.

[00:11:13.66] BENNIE ADKINS: The North Vietnamese owned it.

[00:11:15.91] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:11:16.87] BENNIE ADKINS: And eventually, like I said, I was in there probably 100, 120 days before we were hit. And it seemed like every day there I was shot at by the North Vietnamese in some way. They were just zeroing their weapons--

[00:11:32.68] JOE GALLOWAY: Getting ready.

[00:11:33.73] BENNIE ADKINS: --to get ready. And they did hit us in the rainy season and--

[00:11:42.73] JOE GALLOWAY: No air support then?

[00:11:44.65] BENNIE ADKINS: They couldn't get air support. And they owned the ground anyway. And so they sent a full division on us.

[00:11:53.81] JOE GALLOWAY: Did they take the place?

[00:11:55.30] BENNIE ADKINS: They did after a 38-hour battle.

[00:11:58.09] JOE GALLOWAY: And what did you do?

[00:11:59.53] BENNIE ADKINS: After that 38-hour battle, I went back in the camp with the executive officer to get a wounded SF that was on a stretcher. When we come out we didn't have a ride so we had to hit the jungle. And--

[00:12:14.92] JOE GALLOWAY: With a wounded man.

[00:12:16.60] BENNIE ADKINS: Yes. And unfortunately, the wounded man died in the jungle on us. But we had to continue and I was fortunate enough that I had a little FM radio. They were what we call HD 1 model. But mine happened to have the antenna shot off of it. But I took my shotgun, stood in a stream using my shotgun for an antenna, and communicated with a helicopter.

[00:12:55.57] JOE GALLOWAY: Oh my.

[00:12:57.16] BENNIE ADKINS: The helicopter come in to pick us up, and they shot the helicopter down.

[00:13:03.10] JOE GALLOWAY: You know, you got bad luck there, Bennie.

[00:13:06.07] BENNIE ADKINS: And man, that bad luck has been following me all the way through that. And that particular period of time, we had to go again because there was a second helicopter come in but they had to lift out some wounded that were in the crash of the helicopter that was shot down.

[00:13:31.66] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:13:32.02] BENNIE ADKINS: And then--

[00:13:33.63] JOE GALLOWAY: So you couldn't get on that one?

[00:13:35.23] BENNIE ADKINS: No, we couldn't get-- so we had to go again and the North Vietnamese were after us. And we went

[00:13:44.15] JOE GALLOWAY: Did you find out how fast you could run through the jungle?

[00:13:47.18] BENNIE ADKINS: We could still run even after a 38-hour battle and 48 hours in that jungle. We could still run. And that's how a particular helicopter started communicating with us to the point that we cut a little strip, and he come in to pick us up. But just before this happened, what really saved us was that we started hearing a noise, then some eyes. And about a 400-pound tiger stalked us that night.

[00:14:33.41] That tiger smelled the blood and crud on us to the point that the North Vietnamese had encountered those tigers before there. They backed off and gave us room to get away. And with that, the weather broke a little the next day and we were picked up. And--

[00:14:58.22] JOE GALLOWAY: That tiger saved your life.

[00:15:00.14] BENNIE ADKINS: Absolutely. So now I happen to have a book that's on the market now. It's selling really well. And it's titled A Tiger Among Us.

[00:15:16.82] JOE GALLOWAY: A Tiger Among Us. My goodness. That's a good yarn, Bennie.

[00:15:24.61] BENNIE ADKINS: Yes. Yes, that was a nice one. And I'll tell you what. There was this time a little bit later I finished up that year--

[00:15:36.18] JOE GALLOWAY: This is '65 still?

[00:15:38.04] BENNIE ADKINS: '65, '66 year. Finished that year and then I went back to the States, regrouped a little after all of those body wounds, and I caught another trip again in the '70 and '71. And this time, I spent a little bit of time with some type of an organization called the Studies and Observation Group.

[00:16:04.05] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah. They studied a lot, didn't they?

[00:16:06.95] BENNIE ADKINS: I was fortunate enough to spend a year with that and survived. And after that, I was sent back to the States, and they decided at that time period that I should run Special Operations. And I run Special Operations all over the world. And my records show that I was in 177 different countries. And most of those as an uninvited guest.

[00:16:38.64] JOE GALLOWAY: Now, you happen to wear around your neck the highest decoration that this country gives for heroism in combat. How did you earn that medal?

[00:16:51.12] BENNIE ADKINS: That was in the A Shau camp.

[00:16:54.17] JOE GALLOWAY: In that A Shau camp.

[00:16:55.30] BENNIE ADKINS: I was recommended for that, and I did not receive it until a later period of time. I had the pleasure--

[00:17:03.01] JOE GALLOWAY: How much later?

[00:17:05.65] BENNIE ADKINS: 48 years.

[00:17:08.16] JOE GALLOWAY: So you got it what year?

[00:17:11.01] BENNIE ADKINS: In '14.

[00:17:12.72] JOE GALLOWAY: 2014.

[00:17:13.14] BENNIE ADKINS: Yeah, that's correct.

[00:17:15.42] JOE GALLOWAY: Why did they wait 48 years?

[00:17:17.97] BENNIE ADKINS: So much of it was classified. So they-- I had the pleasure of wearing a Distinguished Service Cross for that time period. And--

[00:17:30.82] JOE GALLOWAY: It was upgraded.

[00:17:31.72] BENNIE ADKINS: Yeah, that is correct. Yes.

[00:17:39.58] The people that I worked with in the Special Forces is definitely an elite group of people. You don't have to worry about someone covering your back. They're there. And unfortunately in the A Shau battle, we had 17 Special Forces there. Five paid the ultimate price. And all 17 were wounded. Most of us multiple wounds.

[00:18:09.40] JOE GALLOWAY: Multiple times?

[00:18:10.63] BENNIE ADKINS: Yes.

[00:18:11.80] JOE GALLOWAY: Now, when they came after you in the A Shau, did they bring any tanks with them?

[00:18:16.69] BENNIE ADKINS: No, they did not.

[00:18:17.86] JOE GALLOWAY: They did not. They just brought a division of North Vietnamese regulars.

[00:18:23.53] BENNIE ADKINS: Yes. And a lot of aircraft artillery.

[00:18:27.52] JOE GALLOWAY: Oh, that makes it hard for you to get any support.

[00:18:32.35] BENNIE ADKINS: Yes, that is correct.

[00:18:33.85] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah. Can you describe the quality of the leadership in your various outfits?

[00:18:40.66] BENNIE ADKINS: You just didn't know. It's just the absolute elite, top. And most of our leadership should have all been promoted to flag officers, which at that time period Special Forces was not a branch. And it's rare to see a flag officer.

[00:19:02.14] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah, they were kind of prejudiced. If an officer stayed more than two tours they downgraded him.

[00:19:09.67] BENNIE ADKINS: That's right.

[00:19:11.53] JOE GALLOWAY: That's wrong.

[00:19:18.31] BENNIE ADKINS: Probably the worst day that I had in Vietnam was the final day of the Special Forces camp that was under attack at the A Shau Camp. And this was when one company of the local Civilian Irregular Defense Group decided to change sides and fight with the North Vietnamese.

[00:19:48.90] JOE GALLOWAY: That was your guys. Inside the wire.

[00:19:52.80] BENNIE ADKINS: That's right. And that opened up the camp where the North Vietnamese army could get in. And--

[00:20:00.99] JOE GALLOWAY: You had held them off till then?

[00:20:03.98] BENNIE ADKINS: That's correct. And that put us in-- we got in a little hand grenade fight at that time period, yes.

[00:20:14.33] JOE GALLOWAY: What happened to them folks?

[00:20:19.50] BENNIE ADKINS: Some of them didn't survive.

[00:20:28.18] Probably one of the best days was I think after a period of time that I was sent in and brought in some food and believe it or not, some real ice cream. And we had a dish of ice cream. And that was probably the best because we had been accustomed to eating fish heads and weevily rice.

[00:20:57.51] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah. That ice cream sounds pretty good.

[00:21:00.45] BENNIE ADKINS: That ice cream was great.

[00:21:07.91] Just a little bit with the Australians.

[00:21:11.74] JOE GALLOWAY: With the Australians.

[00:21:12.82] BENNIE ADKINS: Yes.

[00:21:14.18] JOE GALLOWAY: What did you think of them? BENNIE ADKINS: They were absolutely quality soldiers. the ones that I was associated with were.

[00:21:30.56] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:21:35.79] BENNIE ADKINS: The majority of the civilians that I was around was-- seemed in my opinion seeking funds from the U.S. And the South Vietnamese military was just-- they'd been in war so long that they were ready to quit.

[00:22:02.04] JOE GALLOWAY: How much contact did you have with your family back home while you were pulling these three tours?

[00:22:08.40] BENNIE ADKINS: Very, very little.

[00:22:11.00] JOE GALLOWAY: A letter once in a while?

[00:22:12.43] BENNIE ADKINS: Just a letter once in a while.

[00:22:15.35] JOE GALLOWAY: That was about it.

[00:22:16.65] BENNIE ADKINS: That's it, yes.

[00:22:18.81] JOE GALLOWAY: Now, you served some times in Vietnam when back home, things were in a mess.

[00:22:25.98] BENNIE ADKINS: That is my understanding, yes.

[00:22:28.11] JOE GALLOWAY: Did any of that come over to bother you at all. or did you ignore it?

[00:22:34.50] BENNIE ADKINS: I ignored it, yes.

[00:22:42.57] JOE GALLOWAY: Well, after you finished your last tour and went home, what was going home like?

[00:22:50.07] BENNIE ADKINS: Well, I had a great family to go home with. I was really fortunate there and like I said, I had a lot of support with the SF people in the rehab that they required to get me back in shape to run special ops throughout the world.

[00:23:14.70] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah. How long more did you stay in the Army after that '70 tour?

[00:23:21.93] BENNIE ADKINS: After that last tour, I stayed in about six or seven more years. In that six or seven years I was promoted to first sergeant-- or to a master sergeant, then first sergeant, then sergeant major, then a command sergeant major in that time period.

[00:23:43.48] JOE GALLOWAY: In that time period. So you retired in what?

[00:23:47.65] BENNIE ADKINS: '78.

[00:23:48.49] JOE GALLOWAY: '78.

[00:23:49.39] BENNIE ADKINS: Yes, sir.

[00:23:51.01] JOE GALLOWAY: What did you do then?

[00:23:52.51] BENNIE ADKINS: I decided at that time period I needed to go back to school. So I went back to school, and I finished a bachelor's degree. I finished two master's degrees. And eventually, the school decided that I needed a doctorate of law.

[00:24:10.39] JOE GALLOWAY: And they gave it to you?

[00:24:11.47] BENNIE ADKINS: That is correct, yes.

[00:24:12.54] JOE GALLOWAY: Or you earned it?

[00:24:13.72] BENNIE ADKINS: Yes, that's correct.

[00:24:15.25] JOE GALLOWAY: That's pretty good. What school was that?

[00:24:17.29] BENNIE ADKINS: That's Troy University.

[00:24:18.73] JOE GALLOWAY: Troy University?

[00:24:19.96] BENNIE ADKINS: Yes.

[00:24:21.31] JOE GALLOWAY: And what were you doing with all them degrees?

[00:24:25.12] BENNIE ADKINS: Well, I operated some businesses. I operated an accounting service, I opened my own business, and I was also teaching as an adjunct professor not only at a junior college, but at a major university also.

[00:24:43.30] JOE GALLOWAY: Wow. Did you have any difficulty readjusting to life in the civilian side?

[00:24:50.53] BENNIE ADKINS: Absolutely. Absolutely and by working day and night and a quality family that supports you made all the difference to me in the world. So that's one reason today that with my foundation that I'm awarding scholarships to these Special Forces enlisted personnel that are transitioning from service.

[00:25:18.19] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah. You're doing that yourself?

[00:25:21.04] BENNIE ADKINS: That's correct, yes.

[00:25:23.23] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah. Great work. Have you kept in touch with the folks that you served with in Vietnam through the years?

[00:25:30.79] BENNIE ADKINS: Yes, sir. At the present time I have the book that I've written. The proceeds from the book is going to my foundation, which is working with this. It all has input from all of the other living Special Forces that were in the battle. And--

[00:25:50.87] JOE GALLOWAY: And you've stayed in touch with them?

[00:25:52.63] BENNIE ADKINS: At that time period they all had input into the book, and I have it. Unfortunately, we have lost one in the last year of that group. And the detachment commander is still alive. Master Sergeant Victor Underwood, is still alive. Major John Bradford is still alive. And a sergeant major is still alive.

[00:26:38.09] JOE GALLOWAY: Do you think that your Vietnam experience changed you and affected your life afterward?

[00:26:44.59] BENNIE ADKINS: Yes.

[00:26:45.76] JOE GALLOWAY: For better or for worse?

[00:26:47.80] BENNIE ADKINS: I've made it better. It was initially worse, but yes, I made it work for me.

[00:26:58.33] JOE GALLOWAY: Work for you. Did your time in Vietnam affect the way you think about troops coming back from our wars today?

[00:27:08.80] BENNIE ADKINS: Absolutely, it does. What I'm seeing with the men and women that are down range today, I think they have better-- I would say better care than what we received at that time frame. And thankfully, that care may cut out some of the post-traumatic stress disorders.

[00:27:38.24] JOE GALLOWAY: We've got to hope.

[00:27:39.50] BENNIE ADKINS: Yes, sir.

[00:27:42.76] JOE GALLOWAY: How do you think the Vietnam War is remembered in our society today?

[00:27:48.68] BENNIE ADKINS: I think it's just an-- unfortunately, in many of the history books, my understanding is it's just a paragraph.

[00:27:56.83] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah, not much.

[00:27:57.85] BENNIE ADKINS: Yes.

[00:28:04.25] JOE GALLOWAY: Have you visited the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the Wall in DC?

[00:28:08.93] BENNIE ADKINS: Yes, I have.

[00:28:10.17] JOE GALLOWAY: What are your thoughts when you go there?

[00:28:12.23] BENNIE ADKINS: I didn't like the idea when it was built based upon the fact that there was not an American flag with it. And I still think it needs an American flag.

[00:28:23.46] JOE GALLOWAY: You think it needs a flag?

[00:28:24.98] BENNIE ADKINS: Yes, sir.

[00:28:31.22] JOE GALLOWAY: Have you heard about the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War Commemoration project? You're part of it today.

[00:28:38.55] BENNIE ADKINS: Yes, I have.

[00:28:39.92] JOE GALLOWAY: What do you think of that?

[00:28:43.29] BENNIE ADKINS: I'm not sure exactly what the overall goal of this is going to be.

[00:28:49.56] JOE GALLOWAY: To welcome home and thank all of the Vietnam veterans.

[00:28:53.81] BENNIE ADKINS: Yes. I'm not sure. 50 years may be a little too late for that.

[00:28:58.58] JOE GALLOWAY: You think it's a little late, huh? Well, you're still here, and I'm still here, Bennie.

[00:29:05.31] BENNIE ADKINS: Well, but you and I survived it without the welcome home, right?

[00:29:12.51] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah, that's true. Have you received your Vietnam veteran lapel pin?

[00:29:19.26] BENNIE ADKINS: Yes, I have.

[00:29:20.04] JOE GALLOWAY: You got one?

[00:29:20.97] BENNIE ADKINS: Yes.

[00:29:21.60] JOE GALLOWAY: I tell you, this Huntsville they stuck those things on everybody. I can't give one away.

[00:29:27.90] BENNIE ADKINS: I have one in my pocket now. You need one?

[00:29:30.84] JOE GALLOWAY: No, I was going to give you another one. Thank you, Sergeant Major Adkins.

[00:29:37.68] BENNIE ADKINS: Appreciate you. Thank you for what are you doing.