



AN ENGINEER'S REFLECTION: THE JOURNEY THAT SHAPED MY CAREER

(3-minute read)

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Started as a national initiative in 1951 by the National Society of Professional Engineers, Engineer's Week was created to promote STEM education and celebrate engineering's role in shaping the future. It takes place each year to coincide with George Washington's birthday and offers engineers not only an opportunity to take pride in our chosen careers but also a chance to inspire the next generation to explore engineering as a career path.

Like most high schoolers, I remember taking multiple career aptitude quizzes in ninth or tenth grade. Whether it was a blessing or a curse, the results came back the same every time: Engineer. I was never surprised. I had known I wanted to be an engineer, like my grandfather, since I was about eight years old.



During the summer, I would commute with my grandfather, Richard Fish, to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers office in Philadelphia. Though I am sure I spent the bulk of my time building with LEGO bricks or drawing on graph paper, I have

vivid memories of my grandfather and the people he worked with. Their office walls were lined with photographs of waterway and shoreline stabilization projects, and other rooms housed massive computers for modeling stormwater drainage and structural stability. The computational power of those early Fortran systems and banks of tape reels would be overshadowed decades later by the phones in our pockets. There was no denying, it was an impressive place to work.

My time with my grandfather was an incredible gift. Though my focus would evolve over time, I always knew I would be a problem solver, an Engineer.

Whether you are an electrical engineer, an architectural engineer, or another type of problem solver entirely, take a moment this Engineer's Week to reflect on what sparked your own journey. Was there a relative whose footsteps you wanted to follow? Or maybe an engineer who inspired you during a grade school career day? Or was it just countless hours with LEGO sets and graph paper? Then, share that story. You never know who might be listening, wide-eyed and already imagining how they'll shape the world...just like you once did.



Chris Beauregard is a Civil Engineer and Civil Department Manager at NUTEC. When he's not problem-solving on a job site, you'll likely find him enjoying the great outdoors or giving back through volunteer work. An active member of the Scouts community, Chris is passionate about mentoring young people and inspiring them to explore the world of engineering.

Looking for more information or ways to get involved? Discover Engineering (www.discovere.org) is a great resource to help inspire the next generation of engineers. You can also find events and volunteer opportunities celebrating the engineering profession through the Central Pennsylvania Engineers Week Council (www.cpewc.com).