

## US History

### Social & Economic History of the 1950s

#### Learning Target:

*I can analyze how the GI Bill helped contribute to the affluence of the 1950s and helped lead to a baby boom.*

### 3. The GI Bill

#### The Story of Chuck Faust –

“The remarkable thing was that I never expected to do anything other than follow in my father’s footsteps as a farmer in Central Kansas.” - *Chuck Faust*

As a high school senior Chuck witnessed the historic attack on Pearl Harbor that propelled America into World War II. Chuck graduated from high school and immediately enlisted in the US Army, feeling it was his patriotic duty. Chuck served courageously and luckily returned home healthy in 1945.

As Chuck returned to civilian life he found himself focusing on things other than farming. He enrolled in college and took advantage of new legislation allowing him to go to college for free, the GI Bill. Chuck also married his high school sweetheart Annie when he returned and they both packed up and moved to Lawrence, KA, home of the Kansas Jayhawks

While Chuck was enrolled at the University of Kansas he majored in business and moved into a Quonset hut. By graduation, Chuck and Annie had their first child and would eventually have four children together.

Having graduated and started a family, Chuck decided to take a job in Kansas City that paid more than he ever dreamed he could make. They bought a home in the suburbs. Chuck loved his house and didn’t even mind the hour commute to work everyday. Annie didn’t need to work with Chuck’s salary and stayed at home to take care of the four children.

#### Conclusions from Chuck’s life –

- Symbolized the conformity of the 50’s for white middle class America
- Chuck lived what many felt was the American dream of the 50’s

#### The GI Bill –

-Official name –

- The Serviceman’s Readjustment Act

Veterans Received Money in Three Areas –

1. Education:
  - 1945-52 – Billions of dollars for millions of vets to attend college
  - 1946 alone 1 million vets enroll in college (1 out of 2 students vets)
  
2. Housing
  - Low interest, government backed loans
  - Made it much easier to afford your first house
  - Demand for housing increased so fast that many had to live in Quonset Huts until their home could be built
  
3. Medical Care
  - Affordable Health care for all veterans
  - Example – VA hospitals

“More than any other factor, the GI Bill passed by Congress in 1944 shaped American society in the postwar period.”

“The GI Bill allowed millions of Americans to achieve a standard of living that was generally better than enjoyed by their parents.”

Conclusions –

- The GI Bill helped to continue American economic growth by allowing veterans to receive educations for better jobs and the ability to buy homes