From Humvee to Harvest: Brian Wolf's Journey from the U.S. Army to Ethanol Leadership

Brian Wolf, a U.S. Army veteran, is the Maintenance Supervisor at Western Plains Energy. His military career spanned more than 26 years, beginning in February 1994 and concluding in May 2020. During that time, he served as a 63W Wheeled Vehicle Mechanic and deployed twice to Iraq, first from November 2004 to November 2005, and again from October 2010 to December 2011.

When asked what motivated him to join the Army, Brian said it was a simple decision made by a young man looking for direction. "I was young and didn't know what else to do," he recalled. That leap of faith led to a career that shaped his leadership style, work ethic, and outlook on life.

Among his many memories from service, one moment stands out for its humor and uniqueness. "Using Saddam Hussein's gold inlaid toilet after U.S. Forces took over the area," he said with a laugh. It was a lighthearted memory in a career often marked by intense work and long deployments.

Brian says his time in the Army prepared him for his role in ethanol production by teaching him the difference between managing and leading. "The military taught me how to be a leader, not a manager," he explained. That lesson has guided his approach throughout his career at Western Plains Energy, where he has built a reputation for strong leadership and steady mentorship.

Even after nearly two decades in the ethanol industry, Brian still finds each day rewarding. "Even though nothing has changed in my 18 years here, it seems like every day is something new," he said. He also appreciates the way Western Plains Energy supported him through his military service. "They held my position during my second deployment and have always given me the time off I needed," he said.

Outside of work, Brian enjoys time with his wife Stacy, whom he calls the real hero of his deployments. "I've always said my wife Stacy had a much harder job than me during deployment. She had to run the household and raise our kids by herself," he shared.

Brian's story reflects the loyalty, humor, and quiet strength that so many veterans bring to the renewable fuels industry. His leadership and dedication continue to make a lasting impact on his team and community.