

local news



VILLAGER BACKSTORY

You may know Dimple Beck as your neighbor in the Village of Glenbrook, but what you may not know is that she was the first female vice president of Arrow Electronics Commercial Systems Group.



Bill Mitchell | Daily Sun

GETTING TO KNOW DIMPLE BECK

Age: 80
Village: Glenbrook
Spouse: Frank Battista
Family: Two sons, two granddaughters and one grandson
Moved Here In: 2000
Moved Here From: Dublin, Ohio
Favorite Villages Activities: Golfing, playing cards



Kristen Fiore

THE VILLAGES DAILY SUN

Do you know someone with an interesting backstory to tell? Email kristen.fiore@thevillagesmedia.com.

Dimple Beck grew up in a strict Akron, Ohio, household with three sisters and two brothers.

"We were raised in the church and got paddlings and things like that when we misbehaved," said Beck, of the Village of Glenbrook.

Beck played the cello in elementary and junior high school, but started working at the age of 16.

After graduating high school in 1958, Beck continued to work instead of going to college. Working hard and always doing the best that she could became a major theme in her life.

Into the World of Computers

By 1975, she had made her way into the computer industry.

She soon found herself in St. Louis working for a company called High Technology as a sales representative covering different states and selling computers to retail stores. When High Technology was bought out by Arrow Electronics, she was transferred to Columbus, Ohio.

"I was the No. 1 sales person," Beck said.

Impressed with her high performance, Arrow Electronics made her manager of the Midwest region. She soon climbed her way up to the role of director, and then landed a position as the first female vice president of the Arrow Commercial Systems Group. She covered 22 states and had about 87 employees.

"I was always the only woman manager or vice

president in that group," she said. "Needless to say, working in a man's world as a woman isn't the easiest thing to accomplish."

Beck's branch was the No. 1 branch in the country every month for all of her years there, except two.

"And I was competing with cities like Boston, New York, L.A. and Atlanta," she said.

A People Person

But it was the people that Beck enjoyed most about the job. When she interviewed someone for a position, she didn't look so much at their experience as she did at how they would get along with the team. This method worked.

"I had less than 1% turnover in 20 years," she said.

During that time, Beck was also raising her two sons.

"Their father was dead," she said. "I had a lot of babysitters coming in."

About three days out of the week, she would travel around the 22 states she covered and sometimes visit the company's vendors in California for product training.

Bill Gates was her first trainer on the Microsoft software. When asked what Gates was like, Beck laughed and said, "Geeky."

Life in The Villages

Beck retired in 1999 and moved to The Villages in 2000.

"I just loved everything about it," she said. "I loved the activities, the cleanliness and the flowers," she said. "We had

a lot of good times and went to the squares a lot."

Beck met her husband, Frank Battista, in 2007. They lived six doors down from each other and were both widowed.

"We both had dogs and were walking the dogs, and that's how we met," she said. "Then we went to the ice cream store and got ice cream."

Beck's favorite thing to do in The Villages is play golf. She even spent several years working for the The Villages Golf Division and working in the golf shop at Harbor Hills Country Club.

Beck's three sisters also live in The Villages. She plays cards with them and occasionally goes out for family dinners.

"I don't see them a lot, but we know we're there if we need each other," she said.

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