

Todd Family Scholarship Veterans Interview Project

Suggested Questions for Veteran of the Korean War

Use these suggestions as a starting point and make your own outline for the interview. Remember, each interview will be different and not all questions will apply.

Introduction

Begin your interview by stating the following:

- Date
- Location (city, state)
- Your name
- Interviewee's name

Example: Today's date is August 1, 2019. My name is John Smith and this is an interview with Jane Doe in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Early Life

- Where were you born?
- When is your birthday?
- Who was your father?
- And your mother?
- What was her maiden name?
- Where did you start school?
- What type of work did your parents do?
- Who was your favorite teacher?
- Tell me about your school.
- How did the Great Depression affect you and your family?
- Describe your house where you lived when you were in school.
- Was there a movie theater in your town?
- What was the name of the theater?
- Theaters would often show *News of the World* and color cartoons. In *News of the World*, did they show what was going on in Korea?
- What year did you graduate high school?
- What did you do after high school?
- Where were you December 7, 1941?
- What did you think when you heard about the attack on Pearl Harbor?
- After the war started, did you help with the scrap metal drives or rubber drives?

Entering the Military

- Did you enlist or were you drafted?
- If you enlisted, why did you choose the service branch you joined?
- Where did you go for basic training?
- How did you travel there?

- Tell me about boot camp.
- What type of training did you have?
- Did you pull kitchen patrol (KP)?
- What is your most vivid memory of basic training?
- Tell me about your drill instructors.
- How long did basic training last?
- Where did you go after basic?
- Were you on a troop train?
- Where did you sleep on the train?
- When the train stopped, were you allowed to get off?

Military Service

- What unit were you assigned to?
- What was your job in the unit?
- Tell me about going overseas.
- Do you recall the name of the ship you were aboard?
- When did you leave the United States?
- What were you thinking when the ship was leaving the United States?
- You left from what port?
- How did you pass the time on the trip?
- Where were your quarters on the ship?
- Where did the ship land?
- What did you do in Korea?
- Did you have any contact with the local people?
- What was their attitude toward the Americans?
- What is your most vivid memory of Korea?
- Tell me about coming home.
- Where did the ship land?
- When were discharged?
- What did you do after you were discharged?
- Would you join the military again?
- How do you want to be remembered?