

Todd Family Scholarship Veterans Interview Project

Suggested Questions for a Veteran of the Vietnam 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.
- 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?
- How often would you go to the movies?
- What were the main stores in the town?
- What year did you graduate high school?
- What did you do after high school?

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 boot camp?
- How did you travel there?
- Tell me about boot camp or basic training.
- What type of training did you have in boot camp?
- Did you pull kitchen patrol (KP)?
- Tell me about KP.

- What is your most vivid memory of basic training?
- Tell me about your drill instructors.
- How long did your training last?
- Where did you go after training?

Military Service

- What unit were you assigned to?
- What was your job in the unit?
- How did you travel to Vietnam?
- When did you leave the United States?
- What were you thinking when you were on the airplane heading toward Vietnam?
- Where did the airplane land?
- What was your first reaction when you got off the airplane?
- Where were you based in Vietnam?
- What did you do in Vietnam?
- Describe your quarters in Vietnam.
- How did you travel around Vietnam?
- How could you tell the Viet Cong from the North Vietnamese Army?
- Did you have any contact with the local people?
- What was their reaction toward the Americans?
- What is your most vivid memory of Vietnam?
- How long were you in Vietnam?
- Tell me about coming home.
- Where did the airplane land?
- Were there any war protestors at the airport?
- When were you discharged?
- What did you do after you were discharged?
- Would you join the military again?
- How do you want to be remembered?