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Skip to content suggested QUESTIONS for GRANDPARENTS But first, a few tips: These are a few suggested questions that all Family Historians should ask their grandparents, if they have the chance. I say 'suggested questions that all Family Historians should ask their grandparents, if they have the chance. I say 'suggested questions that all Family Historians should ask their grandparents, if they have the chance. I say 'suggested' ... some may not be appropriate or applicable. You don't have to ask all of them, or all at the same time. This is a sort of ideas, or crib
sheet. A list like this may be best tackled in several sessions. Remember, whilst general information about how they lived is fascinating, you'll need as many full names and dates as you can to have any hope of building a proper tree. And of course, places too. And try to get middle names or initials .. they can often be the decider when you're later
faced with a list of 3 people of the same name to choose from. Be patient ... you won't get all the answers in one go. Some grandparents will be reluctant to answer much, a lot depending on what their childhood was like and whether the memories are good or bad. Be compassionate .. some answers will throw up yet more questions, and ones to which
you may never get answers. Get the main details, dates, etc, so that you can do a basic 'tree'. If you intend later to write your family's history, then more detail will be necessary. Every family has a story ... and some parts of that story may not be for our ears. The older generation still largely feel that the old proverb, 'Let Sleeping Dogs Lie' still holds
good. Don't push your luck. Time works wonders ... and a few weeks after being asked the original questions, with time to consider the matter more deeply, some grandparents may well come back to you with answers that they feel you should know after all. Family History can be a minefield ... be careful not to step on one. With those points in mind,
go for it! GENERAL What year were you born ... and of course, the date. (Of course, all children know their grandad and grandma's birthday .... don't they?) Where were you born ... in hospital, or perhaps at home? What are the three words that best describe your overall life? What was the happiest time of your life? What was the hardest part of your
life? Who influenced you the most in your life? YOUR CHILDHOOD Now, let's go back to your childhood. Tell me, how many brothers and sisters? Who were you closest to? When you were born, what did your parents do for a living? Would you say you
were poor, comfortable, or well off as a family at that time? What was your neighborhood like? Who were your neighborhood like? Who were your neighborhood friends? Would you do for fun at the weekend? Did you and your family take holidays? What did you do? Where did you go to infants and junior school?
Did you like school? Did you get good reports? Did your favorite childhood book? What was your favorite teacher? Why? Did your
mum like? Was she affectionate with you? Did she have any nicknames for you? Or your siblings? What do you know your grandparents on both sides, any dates,
etc? What words do you most remember from your mum and dad? SCHOOL LIFE When you were a child, what did you think your adult life would be like? Did you like senior school? Were you involved in any activities? Who were
your best friends? How would you describe yourself in your senior school, did you go straight to work or continue with more education, college, etc? Where? What were those years like? If you did go to college, did you describe yourself? How did you describe yourself? How did you describe yourself? What was your college, etc? Where? What were those years like? If you did go to college, did you describe yourself? How did you describe yourself? What were those years like? If you did go to college, did you describe yourself? What were those years like? If you did you describe yourself? What was your senior school days? What were those years like? If you did you describe yourself? What was your senior school days? What were those years like? If you did you describe yourself? How did you describe yourself? What was your senior school days? What were those years like? If you did you describe yourself? What were those years like? If you did you describe yourself? What were those years like? If you did you describe yourself? What were those years like? If you did you describe yourself? What were those years like? If you did you describe yourself? What were those years like? If you did you describe yourself? What were those years like? If you did you describe yourself? What were those years like? If you did you describe yourself? What were those years like? If you did you describe yourself? What were those years like? If you did you describe yourself? What were those years like? If you did you describe yourself? What you descr
was your favorite course? CAREER How did you choose your career? Or did it choose your career? RELATIONSHIPS Now, let's talk about your first job. What was the highlight of your career? RELATIONSHIPS Now, let's talk about
                                                           (spouse). How old were each of you when you met? Did you date right away or were you friends first? What attracted you two became engaged. Who did you tell first? How long was your engagement? Did your parents
approve of the marriage? Where were you married? Describe your ceremony and reception. Where did you go for your honeymoon? Where did you were first marriage? Did you feel like you went into marriage
prepared? What advice would you give to someone considering marriage? How would you advise them to choose a mate? CHILDREN Did you plan on having children? How did you been married when you expected your first child? How did you choose his / her name? Where was he / she born? Were you there at the birth? Tell me about the births
of all of your children. How did children change your marriage? What was your discipline philosophy regarding your children? What advice would you give? What was the happiest time of raising your children? What advice would you give? What was your discipline philosophy regarding your children? What was the happiest time of raising your children? What advice would you give? What was the happiest time of raising your children? What was your discipline philosophy regarding your marriage?
Can we talk about your faith, if any? What are your beliefs about God? What role does it play now? Do you read the Bible? If so, do you have a favorite verse? What do you believe happens after we die? SIGNIFICANT EVENTS As you look back over your life, what significant world events do you remember most?
(Kennedy assassination, moonwalk, Vietnam War, September 11) What other events shaped your life -- the defining moments? Did you ever go through serious illnesses or injuries? How did you pull through? FAVORITE PASTIMES Do you have any hobbies or interests? What about in the past -- what were some of your hobbies? Are you artistic or
musical? Do you enjoy the cinema? What are your three favorite films? Do you like to read? What are your three favorite books? What about politics -- do you vote regularly? Do you enjoy travel? Would you have liked to have traveled more? What about politics -- do you vote regularly? Do you enjoy travel? Would you have liked to have traveled more? What was your best travel experience? FINALLY If you could live your life over again, what would you do
differently? What would you like future generations to know about you? Just Close the Tab, or Window, when you've done ... your Sutton page should still be open behind. There is an extensive list of Military Links to aid with researching Regimental, Naval and Air Forces information on your military forebears, on the OTHER LINKS button in the
menu. It includes a list of "QUESTIONS FOR OLD SOLDIERS", being a dozen or so suggested questions Family Historians should ask their grandparents about their time in the Armed Forces. Skip to content Skip t
time to capture the legacy of your parents, grandparents and other beloved family members. Maybe you will be together live or you could always record a virtual call if they are not with you. Below is a list of potential questions to ask your parents, grandparents or anyone else in your family whose story youd like to preserve. Knowing the stories of your
family can give you a deeper understanding of your parents and grandparents, but it also gives you greater insight into your own motivations and behaviors. There are a lot of questions here. You dont have to ask all of them, but the list is a good guide to get you started. I used them to interview my dad four years ago. I wish I had done it earlier,
BEFORE he was quite sick, going through chemo for lung cancer. My mom, Diannel did it with my mom (pictured above) when she was in great health. The recordings from my grandparents! I only have one from my grandparents! I only have one from my grandparents made in the early
1990s when she was in her prime! She really loved to watch it, too, since she had never seen herself on TV.Its important to explain to your legacy for future generations. Questions to ask your parents and grandparentsKeep in mind that some of your relatives will be more shy than others, so take measures to be
sensitive to that. Use a tripod and put it aside dont hold onto your camera. An external mic is a good idea if you have one or get on for under $20 very easily. Great sound will really make a difference! A good way to start and get them warmed up is to look through a family photo album together and ask them to tell you stories. If you do intend to ask
many of the questions, its a good idea to plan on a couple different sittings. But remember, you can feel free to just ask the questions you think are most interesting. What is your full name and why were you named that? Did you have a nickname growing up? What were the full names, dates of birth and places of birth of your parents and
grandparents? What were the occupations of your parents? What do you remember most about your father? What do you remember most about your father is a father f
you born in a hospital, at home or elsewhere? How many children were in your family? What are the earliest memories about your first home? What are the earliest memories about your family? What are the earliest memories about your first home? What are the earliest memories about your family? What are the earliest memories are the earliest memories about your family.
story or a special memory about your brothers and sisters? What was your favorite pet when you were a kid? What did you family do for fun when you were a kid? What did you family do for fun when you were a kid? What did you family do for fun when you were a kid? What did you family do for fun when you were a kid? What did you family do for fun when you were a kid? What did you family do for fun when you were a kid? What did you family do for fun when you were a kid? What did you family do for fun when you were a kid? What did you family do for fun when you were a kid? What did you family do for fun when you were a kid? What did you family do for fun when you were a kid? What did you family do for fun when you were a kid? What did you family do for fun when you were a kid? What did you family do for fun when you were a kid? What did you family do for fun when you were a kid? What did you family do for fun when you were a kid? What did you family do for fun when you were a kid? What did you family do for fun when you were a kid? What did you family do for fun when you were a kid? What did you family do for fun when you were a kid? What did you family do for fun when you were a kid? What did you family do for fun when you were a kid? What did you family do for fun when you were a kid? What did you family do for fun when you were a kid? What did you family do for fun when you were a kid? What did you family do for fun when you were a kid? What did you family do for fun when you were a kid? What did you family do for fun when you were a kid? What did you family do for fun when you were a kid? What did you family do for fun when you were a kid? What did you family do for fun when you were a kid? What did you family do for fun when you were a kid? What did you family do for fun when you were a kid? What did you family do for fun when you were a kid? What did you family do for fun when you were a kid? What did you family do for fun when you were a kid? What did you family do for fun when you were a kid? What did you fa
picture of my Dad and I When you were young, did you ever collect anything? Whore did you go to grammar school, high school? Who was your best friend in high school? Who was your first job? How much money did you make? Did you work during high school? How many
jobs have you had? How did you decide on a career? Did you and your friends have a special place to hangout? Tell me about that. How would people who knew you in high school sports or clubs? Did you receive any special
awards? What did you wear to school? What did you want to be when you grew up? What did you pay for it? How did you pay for it? How did you pay for it? How did you pay for it? Who was your first date? How many times have you been in love? How did you meet my mom/dad? Tell us about that? How
long did you date? What was that like? What was your proposal like? What was your proposal like? What are their names, birthdates and birthplaces? Why did you name them what
you did? Are there any funny or unusual things your children did that stand out? What was most rewarding about being a parent? Were you strict or lenient as a parent? How did they die? Do you remember your grandparents
describing their lives? What did they say? Did you ever do anything naughty/mischievous? Did you ever do anything naughty/mischievous? Did you served in a serious accident? Has anyone ever saved your life? What family trip do you remember most? What family trip do you remember most? What is the funniest family story you remember? Did you ever do anything naughty/mischievous? Did you served in
the Armed Forces? Which branch? When? When? When? Whore and song? My sisters Peggy Ann and Kristy What do you remember the first time you saw a television, car, plane, and refrigerator? Do you remember
your family discussing world events and politics? How would you describe yourself politically? How did the Vietnam War affect you? Who are your closest friends to this day? Who is your oldest friend? How did the Vietnam War affect you? Who are your closest friends to this day? Who is your oldest friend?
What were the hardest choices you ever had to make? Was there an event that really changed the course of your life? Was there a person who really impacted the course of your life? What was the most stressful experience you ever hide through? What was the most stressful experience you ever hide through? What was the most stressful experience you ever hide through? What was the most stressful experience you ever hide through? What was the most stressful experience you ever hide through? What was the most stressful experience you ever hide through? What was the most stressful experience you ever hide through? What was the most stressful experience you ever hide through? What was the most stressful experience you ever hide through? What was the most stressful experience you ever hide through? What was the most stressful experience you ever hide through? What was the most stressful experience you ever hide through? What was the most stressful experience you ever hide through? What was the most stressful experience you ever hide through? What was the most stressful experience you ever hide through? What was the most stressful experience you ever hide through? What was the most stressful experience you ever hide through? What was the most stressful experience you ever hide through? What was the most stressful experience you ever hide through?
What kind of musical instruments have you learned to play? What are some amazing things that have happened to you? Have you met any famous people? Who were your parents? Who were your
grandparents? Where are they from? What organizations or groups have you been a member of? Have you won any special awards or prizes as an adult? What is the longest trip that you have every gone on? Where did you go? What states have you
visited? What countries have you visited? What or who is your favorite place you have ever visited and what was it like? What pets have you have always wanted to do but havent? Have you have always wanted to do but havent? Have you have always wanted to do but havent? Have you have ever visited and what was it like? What or who is your favorite: My mom and dad with some best friends My Dad the angler
What is the single most memorable moment of your life? What are you most thankful for? What are you most proud of? Do you have any photos, movies, videos or audio recordings of older family members? What are you most thankful for? What are you most proud of? Do you have any photos, movies, videos or audio recordings of older family members? What are you most proud of? Do you have any photos, movies, wideos or audio recordings of older family members? What are you most proud of? Do you have any photos, movies, wideos or audio recordings of older family members? What are you most proud of? Do you have any photos, movies, wideos or audio recordings of older family members? What are you most proud of? What are you most proud of? Do you have any photos, movies, wideos or audio recordings of older family members? What are you most proud of? Do you have any photos, movies, wideos or audio recordings of older family members? What are you most proud of? What are you most proud of? What are you most proud of? Do you have any photos, movies, without a property of the proud of? What are you most proud of? What are yo
about our family tree we do not know? Though it may be uncomfortable, its important to ask some questions that are a little more difficult. When someone passes away, you have to be able to access essential documents and possessions or you will have a nightmare situation to deal with. Items such as: Their will, marriage licenses Social Security
InformationProof of ownership of key assets real estate, cars etc. Stock certificates, annuities, savings bonds, and brokerage accounts Proof of loans made and debts owed
The process of dealing with whats left behind is simpler when everything is in order and no one has to search through drawers, cabinets and closets. Preserving a legacy stime goes on, its more important for you to document the story of your family for future generations. In addition to knowing the history, you need to know where important
documents are kept and what your loved ones wishes are before something happens to them. These 98 questions will help you get to know your family and yourself. Do you have a method for preserving important memories and documents? The Vietnam War was a significant event in American history, impacting millions of lives and shaping the course
of the nation for decades to come. For those who served in this conflict, their experiences and perspectives provide valuable insights into the realities and complexities of war. If you have the opportunity to speak with a Vietnam War veteran, it is important to approach the conversation with respect and sensitivity. To help guide your discussion, here
are some questions you can ask to gain a deeper understanding of their experiences. 1. What motivated you to enlist and serve in the Vietnam? 3. Can you describe a typical day during your time in Vietnam? 4. What motivated you to enlist and serve in the Vietnam? 5. Can you describe a typical day during your time in Vietnam? 5. Can you describe a typical day during your time in Vietnam? 5. Can you describe a typical day during your time in Vietnam? 6. Can you describe a typical day during your time in Vietnam? 8. Can you describe a typical day during your time in Vietnam? 8. Can you describe a typical day during your time in Vietnam? 8. Can you describe a typical day during your time in Vietnam? 8. Can you describe a typical day during your time in Vietnam? 8. Can you describe a typical day during your time in Vietnam? 8. Can you describe a typical day during your time in Vietnam? 8. Can you describe a typical day during your time in Vietnam? 8. Can you describe a typical day during your time in Vietnam? 8. Can you describe a typical day during your time in Vietnam? 8. Can you describe a typical day during your time in Vietnam? 8. Can you describe a typical day during your time in Vietnam? 8. Can you describe a typical day during your time in Vietnam? 8. Can you describe a typical day during your time in Vietnam? 8. Can you describe a typical day during your time in Vietnam? 8. Can you describe a typical day during your time in Vietnam? 8. Can you describe a typical day during your time in Vietnam? 8. Can you describe a typical day during your time in Vietnam? 8. Can you describe a typical day during your time in Vietnam? 8. Can you describe a typical day during your time in Vietnam? 8. Can you describe a typical day during your time in Vietnam? 8. Can you describe a typical day during you describe a typical day
aspect of serving in Vietnam?5. How did you cope with the physical and mental demands of war?6. Did you form close relationships with your fellow soldiers? How did they impact your experience?7. Were you ever injured or wounded during your time in Vietnam?8. What was your most memorable moment or experience in Vietnam?9. Did you receive
any recognition or awards for your service?10. How did your time in Vietnam shape your perspective on life and war?11. Did you maintain contact with any fellow veterans after the war?11. How did your family and friends back home react to your service in Vietnam?14.
Did you face any challenges or difficulties reintegrating into civilian life?15. What is one misconception or stereotype about the Vietnam War impacted American society and politics?17. Did your experiences in Vietnam influence your career or future endeavors?18. Have you
participated in any veteran organizations or activities since the war?19. How do you think the Vietnam War has shaped your generation?20. What advice would you give to future generations about war and conflict?21. Did you ever feel conflicted about the war while serving in Vietnam?22. How did you stay connected with your loved ones back home
during your time in Vietnam?23. What was the general sentiment among soldiers about the war?24. Were there any specific battles or events that had a significant impact on you?25. What was the general sentiment among soldiers about the war?24. Were there any specific battles or events that had a significant impact on you?25. What was the most difficult decision you had to make during your time in Vietnam?26. How did you feel about the anti-war movement and protests happening back
home?27. Did you ever experience moments of doubt or fear during your service?28. How did you handle the loss of fellow soldiers?29. Did you witness acts of bravery or heroism during your time in Vietnamese civilians during
your service?32. How do you think the Vietnam War impacted the Vietnamese people?33. Did you participate in any humanitarian or reconstruction efforts while in Vietnam?34. How did you feel about the media coverage of the war?35. Were there any particular songs or music that held special meaning for you during the war?36. Did your
experiences in Vietnam influence your political beliefs?37. How did you adjust to the cultural differences and challenges of being in Vietnam?38. How did you feel about the draft and the conscription of young men during the war?39. Did you have any contact with the local Vietnamese culture and traditions?40. What message would you like to convey
to future generations about the Vietnam War? These questions are meant to offer a starting point for your conversation with a Vietnam War veteran. Remember to approach the subject with empathy and learning from their stories, we can gain a deeper appreciation
for the sacrifices made during this tumultuous time in history. Mr. Barton, in my US History class this summer, weve learned about the Vietnam War and Ive invited you in here today to ask you some questions about that war. The first question I want to ask you is this . . . in what year did you graduate from high school? I graduated from high school in
1978 So you felt pretty informed about the war? Yes. I did. I used to read a lot about back then. And since then too. Now, did you see that sort of ignorance in your hometown or anything? No I again I was too young, you know the war ended in 1975, so I was 15 and you know, I was aware of what was going on but I had other things. I was insulated, I
wasnt personally affected by it so I didnt really see that, and again it was Iowa, it wasnt the hotbed of protest or anything? No, not at all. Darwin Judge *** ** * * * Courtney McCall Interviews San Marino Resident Dan ClarkeMy name is Courtney McCall and recently I
used the StoryCorps app to interview San Marino resident Mr. Dan Clarke. Mr. Clarke is the father of 2016 SMHS graduate Nicole Clarke. (to hear the 10:36 interview, click here) Hello, everyone. My name is Courtney McCall and I am a San Marino High School junior. Today, I am interviewing San Marino resident Mr. Dan Clarke in the computer lab
of the College and Career Center at San Marino High School. Aside from living in San Marino, Mr. Clarke is also the father of 2016 SMHS graduate Nicole Clarke. In my US History class this summer, we have learned about the Vietnam War and I have invited you here today to ask you some questions about that war. But before getting
started I want to congratulate your daughter Nicole for her recent graduation from the high school. So now to my questions. The first question I want to ask you is this: In 1968, at the height of the Vietnam War and at the height of the vietnam War protests, you were in the naval reserves and attending college, correct? That is correct. Can you tell
us a bit about all that? Well, in 1967 when I was a senior at Crescenta Valley High School, the draft was on. And I figured that if Im going to have to serve, I want to do it on my own terms. So the day after grad night I put my hand up at the Los Alamitos Naval air station in Orange County and joined the naval reserves. At the same time I got into the
1968 I was in the naval reserve going to college. What did you do for your officer training? Well after I graduated from college, I went down to Pensacola Florida. I went through a sixteen-week officer candidate training? Well after I graduated from college, I went down to Pensacola Florida. I went down to Pensacola Florida. I went through a sixteen-week officer candidate training? Well after I graduated from college, I went down to Pensacola Florida. I went through a sixteen-week officer training? Well after I graduated from college, I went down to Pensacola Florida.
 States Navy. And from there I started basic flight training in Pensacola. That went on for the next year and a half. See, you go through a basic flight training, intermediate, and then advanced flight training in Pensacola. That went on for the next year and a half. See, you go through a basic flight training, intermediate, and then advanced flight training. From there they give you these navy wings of gold. Then you go to your first active duty squadron. An active duty squadron, what is that? Well,
a transport type squadron that carried mail, passengers and cargo aboard aircraft carriers. So I was basically a transport pilot. Carrying mail, passengers, and cargo along the east coast, Caribbean, and Europe. So that was my specialty. So, the war for the United States ended in 1973 and if I have this right, you never went to Vietnam during the war
Candidate School; they went to the last part of the war and a couple of guys, they unfortunately got killed. I knew some others that got killed later in post-war type activities. Not too many though. The Naval Aviation Program was pretty well trained and we pretty much knew what we were doing. It was rare if we got caught up in an accident. The only
folks that got into trouble were those who got shot at.Did any of your friends or family dodge the draft? You know Courtney, that is something that is. . . zero. I know of nobody that I knew a lot of folks coming through high school. But my high school, which is Crescenta Valley High School is a pretty conservative high school and we didnt
have much liberalism going on there. I went to Oregon State University for college and at the time that college was pretty conservative too; so there wasnt really that much of an anti-war demonstration? No. It wouldnt have been in keeping with me going through the
military. Although I did have friends down in Berkeley that were Oregonians. So I had the chance to go down there and observer some of the anti-war demonstrations. But I was more of an observer. I never participated. Did you see any violent actions at some of these protests? Well, I did see at Berkeley Square some very active demonstrations and
there were some active confrontations between the police and security and the folks demonstrating. It was quite vivid and I guess you call it somewhat entertaining, but it was somewhat violent. Yes. A final Vietnam War question for you, Mr. Clarke. Do you think that sending US troops to Vietnam was a mistake? You know that's a very good question
Courtney and it's been almost fifty years on. Let me answer that free-form and I would like to answer it completely. First of all, I think the original involvement in that war (it was basically a civil war in the late 50s and the early 60s) was an honorable intention. Because we didnt want that country to go communist. And there was by indication since
there was big support from Russia that there was a global war against communism, there's just no doubt about that. So, the original involvement was honorable. But then there was a global war against communism, there's just no doubt about that. So, the original involvement was honorable. But then there was a global war against communism, there's just no doubt about that. So, the original involvement was honorable. But then there was no real, clear mandate in what we were doing. There was never any clarity. And why we were there and what we
Nazis in the eastern front in World War II. Nobody could never make the case that our national security was really in jeopardy fighting a civil war abroad. So in hindsight, yes it was a mistake, but the original intentions I thought were honorable. So with that, we've come to the end of the interview, Mr. Clarke. Before closing, is there anything else
about the Vietnam war that you would like to tell us about that you havent yet had a chance to express? The Vietnam war a reflection of the Cold War and that extended well into the 70s and the early 80s when I got out of active duty. So even though Vietnam was a lost war, the hangover from that war stayed with me even though I was on active
years. So you stated that you were still affected after the war had ended. Was there anyone you know that was emotionally affected by the war? Well, I think everybody who served in Vietnam had a certain aspect of being affected by the war? Well, I think everybody who served in Vietnam had a certain aspect of being affected. They were certainly happy not to be fighting in the war, but most of the guys I know now, there were a lot of the ground
troops that I didnt really know. I knew mostly that air people, the air department people and they were rather affected by being shot at a lot. But they were very happy not being shot at after that. The only thing that was was very obvious.
You could see it, how people acted, the ones that actually had to fight there. Okay, so thats it. Mr. Clarke, thats all the questions I have for you. I really want to thank you for your time today. I found it all very interesting and think the rest of the class will too. I enjoyed myself immensely. Thank you. Side note: One other question that was asked that
was not in the interview but accidentally (and luckily) was recorded is this question . . . were you ever scared when trying to land on an aircraft carriers? Well, let me tell you. Flying an airplane actually becomes rather routine after awhile. Take off, flying and landing - many times its just like riding on a bus. You take off, fly, and you land. Yet there
are times when the routine is anything but boring and that's especially true when trying to land on an aircraft carrier. In those instances, you have to be always alert; 100%. We were always on edge and the danger was always clear and present. That was a very dangerous environment. We were flying very close to other aircraft and of course landing
aboard the aircraft carrier was always dangerous. Always, always dangerous. We were dealing with a moving platform. Sometimes the ships, when youre on rough seas, the rear deck would be different. Turboprop aircraft carrier
landing********Kyle Yen Interviews SM Teacher Bill MannMy name is Kyle Yen and recently I used the StoryCorps app to interview, click here) Hello, everyone. My name is Kyle Yen and I am a San Marino High School junior. Today, I am interviewing SMHS
computer applications teacher Mr. Bill Mann in room 404 at San Marino High School. Mr. Mann, in my US History class this summer, weve learned about the Vietnam War and Ive invited you in here today to ask you some questions about that war. The first question I want to ask you is: what year did you graduate from high school? 1961.Ok, and did
you serve in the war right after high school? I went to college, but I was in the reserves in 57, 58 maybe. And then during college, I went down to San Diego, and I was in the Navy. We had two weeks of basic training, not the 10 weeks that is normally the cycle . . .
 because thats for people that invest. But yeah, in San Diego.Can you describe some parts of training? Because I was older, I was in charge of our group, our I dont know what they called it at the time, platoon or I dont know what they called it at the time, platoon or I dont know. We did the shooting and we did the swimming. We did all the things that are in the training? Because I was older, I was in charge of our group, our I dont know what they called it at the time, platoon or I dont know.
service. When did you know when you were being deployed to Vietnam? In 1965, they told me, I had served 4 and a half years in the reserves, and they that it was my turn to go, in active duty from 1965 to 1967. So you were in
the Navy, what were your specific duties? I was a radar-man, and also I was an ECM operator, which was Electronic Counter-Measures, and I went to school through the reserves, for radar, and then I went to school through the reserves, for radar and then I went to Point Loma for ECM operator. So radar-man, is that on the ground or further back? I was on a destroyer, and I went to school through the reserves, for radar and then I went to school through the reserves, for radar and then I was stationed down below.
plotted courses, we looked at maps for any dangerous things, so we could plot a course so that the ship could pull into harbors and things like that. Did you ever physically set foot in Vietnam? No, we went up some of the rivers, and we had .50 caliber machine guns, I think, on the sides of the ship, and one in the rear. We would go up the rivers, and leads to the ship could plot a course so that the ship could plo
could throw a stone to the land, but I never set foot on the land. Where did your training as a radarman? They call it Blacksmith. Its the navy and marine building up on Sierra Madre Boulevard in Pasadena and I went to a two-week school down at Point Loma for radarman. That doesn't sound like a very physical job. Its not. Did you feel like you wasted
your time training? Actually not, because we did so much. When we took on ammo, or we took on stores, or we took on fuel, we all had to participate and pull the lines over and do that. I was up in the nets during bring up ammo, and Id have to take the shots and pass them to another person. So it was helpful. What was day-to-day life like on the
Destroyer? In war time, or when we were close to Vietnam, we would be 5 hours on, 7 hours on, 7 hours on, and 5 hours off, 7 hours off,
cramped? Um, yeah they were, but not really really bad. The showers were in another place, and the bathrooms were in another place, so they werent right where we were sleeping. Just going onto some other questions here, do you have any family members or friends that served in the war? My uncle was a marine, but he didn't serve in that war. Here
served in WWII. And then my brother-in-law, he was in another ship. He went in before I did, and so I didnt see him over in Vietnam. Do you have any stories from your time on the Destroyer? We have a lot of stories. When we refueled, that was always a time that everyone got together, and helped each other, that sort of thing. One time, we lost a
cable overboard, when we were refueling, and it got tangled up in the propellers, so that was something that happened. And so we got that straightened out. We did a lot of things on the ship, so they couldn't get to the ship, so
wed try to pick them up before the Viet Cong got to them. Did you ever make any friends who were Vietnamese? We had people on the ship that were from Vietnam, and we made friends with those people. They were officers in the Vietnam army. And yeah, we made friends with them. Ok. Just some more questions about after the war: We know now
that a lot American service men and women struggled emotionally after coming back from their service. Was it difficult for you to adjust to life in the US? It wasnt difficult for me because I didnt see any real shooting of people. None of the people on our ship got hurt. Its not like in the Armory or the Marine Corps, where they lost a lot of friends, but
when we came home, it was what I call a thankless war. Nobody thanked you, nobody cared that you were in the service or not, it was just a thankless war. Do you feel like you were treated badly by other people are in the service, they do a lot for
them. Some restaurants will give them free meals and that sort of thing, and we had none of that. Nobody really cared. Given that you took the time, and everyone was risking their lives in Vietnam for our country, how do you feel about those who either dodged the draft or loudly protested the war on our college and university campuses? It was their
decision, and I think they have to live with their decision, and I feel sorry for them. According to a poll recently taken in 2000, 70% of Americans believe that sending US troops to Vietnam was a mistake. Do you agree with that? I don't think that we shouldn't have gone there, because there were a lot of Communists there, and people were coming
down from China in Vietnam, and they were Communists. The people under the Communist rule didnt have any freedom, it was just a really bad situation. I think that we made an impact, and you can see the impact that it made with Russia and tearing down the wall in Germany
and hardly anyone is a real Communist anymore, like they were in that day and age. Just a last thing, do you have anything you want to share about the war that you think, like any thoughts? I have some thoughts. One was I believe that Jane Fonda was a sympathizer with the communists because she collected the nametags of the soldiers in the
prisons there. She was an actress. The family was involved with acting. She received nametags from some of the prisoners for her to come back to the United States to tell their families that they were okay, they were still in Vietnam in prisons, but they were okay. And she gave the nametags to the Viet Cong and they tortured them because they did
that. And I really believe that she was a traitor, and thats one of the things that I really have a rough time with. Thats interesting. So, Mr. Mann, thats all the questions I have. I want to thank you for serving in our military, like you
said before that it was a thankless war, but I think that all the soldiers and you on the Destroyer, that really helped the movement, and that kept Communism out of the world. Thank you again. Ill go ahead and stop the recording now.*******SMHS Junior Ben Ly Interviews San Marino Resident John LyMy name is Ben Ly and I am a San
Marino High School junior. Today, I am interviewing my father Mr. Ly in my home in Los Angeles, California. My father grew up in Vietnam during the Vietnam during the Vietnam during the Vietnam during my dad, in our home, San Marino High
School.Dad, in my US History class this summer, we have learned about the Vietnam War and I have invited you here today to ask you some questions about that war and the first question I want to ask you is this:How old were you at the time of the Tet Offensive? I was only 6 years old.Do you have any memories of that event? Yes. It was the Second
Day of Chinese New Year and all of a sudden everybody was shooting off firecrackers, and then the firecracker sounds got bigger and bigger. At first, we didnt realize that those sounds were coming from the guns of the North Vietnamese
soldiers. Thats how the Tet Offensive began. Ok. Do you have any other memories? Yea, we were trapped. The war zone was in Cholon. Cholon is a mainly Chinese neighborhood and the Communists were bringing the flour and the
seasonal goods and the communists were with them. So that how they got into Cholon, and then they quickly took the route to Saigon, and then they started bombing and shooting the American Embassy, and all of a sudden, the embassy was under attack. The presidents house was under attack. Then within the next 3 months we were in the war zone
We were living basically in the middle of the war zone because every day and night we would see soldiers going to the next street, which is where we lived. Next street to fight. Then the gun sounds and the bombing was more aggressive and more brutal. We saw
helicopters flying with a 50-millimeter gun. The only thing we could remember was they were shooting rockets back. We didnt know how to describe it. We always kept saying, Look, the American helicopter is peeing! Actually, they were shooting rockets at the ground where the VC, Viet Cong, stayed. For 3 months, it was nonstop. From February to
May it was nonstop. We had no communication, no power, no light, and we didnt have water relied on the rain because Vietnam was under monsoons; it was a good thing that it was the rainy season so we could filter it out and drink. No food. Nothing. Whatever we had was just rice because
thats what we had leftover. Rice. And you were not allowed to go out. You stayed in your house all the time, nothing else. And at night time all we saw was no light. You were so scared to turn on the lights or put a candle on because then they though you're one of the VC. So all the lights were shut off. And the whole neighborhood was like that. They
were living in fear. That event was so traumatizing. By the time they went back to normal curfew it was May. We went back to school become more like a refugee camp because the next 8 months, a lot of people lost their houses. They had no place to go; they were waiting for relocation and we were going to school side by side with the
refugees living at school. I lost a lot of childhood friends because they never came back. They never did. Never. A lot of them didn't come back to school. And later on, my father, when the curfew was over during May and June, was
able to visit those areas in what you call the War Zone. It's the same thing you see in any war. All the buildings were collapsed. Nobody lived there anymore. The place needed to be cleaned up real bad. You saw dead people all over the place. And thats how it was. That is how the Tet Offensive was. During the Tet Offensive, a lot of Viet Cong died;
also a lot of GI soldiers died. So did the Vietnamese soldier exactly? A GI soldier exactly? A GI soldier exactly? A GI soldier exactly? A GI soldier is an American marines that went to Vietnam to fight the war. About half a million of them were there during the Vietnam War. In 1968
what they called the Tet Offensive played a major role. It was the first time the Northern part the Viet Cong almost went to the Americans, I think the Americans and Southern Vietnamese soldiers suffered a lot of casualties. During this war a lot of people lost their
lives. Not until 1973, this was called the most serious fight in the central highland area, the Central Vietnam highland area, the Central Vietnam highland area, the number was not
lower. And how old were you when you came to the United States? I came to the United States in 1978. July 2, 1978. I was 14 years old. How did you get here? By plane or boat? My father took a lot of effort to try and get us here. We were here by plane, but we went to Singapore first, then we came to the United States. Can you now tell us your story
from the time you came to the United States until the very present? Im especially wanting to know how hard was it for you to adjust to life in the United States. Most of them were Southern Vietnamese who escaped from the Communist country
coming to the United States or either Paris or Australia - for freedom. Life was not easy. I recall my sophomore, senior, and junior year. I lived on the dictionary to go to school. Back then there was no Internet, so we only relied on a dictionary that could help us with everything, and
during the summertime, we would do summer jobs. I remember the first summer in 1978. I worked with a building contractor we would do some painting. We went to peoples houses to paint. I was more like adult labor. In 1978, a gallon of gas
was only 30 cents, and bubblegum was only 5 cents. Have you ever been back to Vietnam? I have been back to Vietnam because of business purposes. I am an international buyer in a food distributor company so it is my job to go back to Saigon, which is my job to go back to Saigon, which is my job to go back to Saigon, which is my job to go back to Saigon, which is my job to go back to Saigon, which is my job to go back to Saigon, which is my job to go back to Saigon, which is my job to go back to Saigon, which is my job to go back to Saigon, which is my job to go back to Saigon, which is my job to go back to Saigon, which is my job to go back to Saigon, which is my job to go back to Saigon, which is my job to go back to Saigon, which is my job to go back to Saigon, which is my job to go back to Saigon, which is my job to go back to Saigon, which is my job to go back to Saigon, which is my job to go back to Saigon, which is my job to go back to Saigon, which is my job to go back to Saigon, which is my job to go back to Saigon, which is my job to go back to Saigon, which is my job to go back to Saigon, which is my job to go back to Saigon, which is my job to go back to Saigon, which is my job to go back to Saigon, which is my job to go back to Saigon, which is my job to go back to Saigon, which is my job to go back to Saigon, which is my job to go back to Saigon, which is my job to go back to Saigon, which is my job to go back to Saigon, which is my job to go back to Saigon, which is my job to go back to Saigon, which is my job to go back to Saigon, which is my job to go back to Saigon, which is my job to go back to Saigon, which is my job to go back to Saigon, which is my job to go back to Saigon, which is my job to go back to Saigon, which is my job to go back to Saigon, which is my job to go back to Saigon, which is my job to go back to Saigon, which is my job to go back to Saigon, which is my job t
now called Ho Chi Minh City. The city has been changing a lot. Everything is more modern now. Because of the War, we can find most of the Vietnamese in Santa Ana, or that swhy you have a little Saigon in Santa Ana, or that swhy you have a little Saigon in Santa Ana, or that swhy you have a little Saigon in Santa Ana, so that swhy you have a little Saigon in Santa Ana, or that swhy you have a little Saigon in Santa Ana, or that swhy you have a little Saigon in Santa Ana, or that swhy you have a little Saigon in Santa Ana, or that swhy you have a little Saigon in Santa Ana, or that swhy you have a little Saigon in Santa Ana, or that swhy you have a little Saigon in Santa Ana, or that swhy you have a little Saigon in Santa Ana, or that swhy you have a little Saigon in Santa Ana, or that swhy you have a little Saigon in Santa Ana, or that swhy you have a little Saigon in Santa Ana, or that swhy you have a little Saigon in Santa Ana, or that swhy you have a little Saigon in Santa Ana, or that swhy you have a little Saigon in Santa Ana, or that swhy you have a little Saigon in Santa Ana, or that swhy you have a little Saigon in Santa Ana, or that swhy you have a little Saigon in Santa Ana, or that swhy you have a little Saigon in Santa Ana, or that swhy you have a little Saigon in Santa Ana, or that swhy you have a little Saigon in Santa Ana, or that swhy you have a little Saigon in Santa Ana, or that swhy you have a little Saigon in Santa Ana, or that swhy you have a little Saigon in Santa Ana, or that swhy you have a little Saigon in Santa Ana, or that swhy you have a little Saigon in Santa Ana, or that swhy you have a little Saigon in Santa Ana, or that swhy you have a little Saigon in Santa Ana, or that swhy you have a little Saigon in Santa Ana, or that swhy you have a little Saigon in Santa Ana, or that swhy you have a little Saigon in Santa Ana, or that swhy you have a little Saigon in Santa Ana, or that swhy you have a little Saigon in Santa Ana, or that swhy you have a little Saigon in Santa Ana, or that swh
another 2 hundred thousand living in San Gabriel Valley. In the Northern San Jose area, you have more than 350 thousand living in Houston and Dallas, Texas. And then 50 thousand living in West Virginia. Those places have a strong Vietnamese community. What
the best and the worst thing that you can say about Vietnam today? The best of Vietnam today? The best
finally had a first established contact with Vietnam made it to an Asian apex which made international trade until the late 2000s. I believe it was in 2009 that Vietnam made it to an Asian apex which made international allies against economic developed Asian countries led by Japan, Korea, Malaysia, China, and India. They called it apex. So in the last 5
years, business has been booming in Vietnam. But then again, the people are the same. People are the poor continue to be poor. The government officials are the bad side of Vietnam. Dad, in my US History class
this summer we have learned that according to a Gallup poll taken in 2000, 70% of Americans believe that sending US troops to Vietnam was a mistake. Do you believe that sending to a Gallup poll taken in 2000, 70% of Americans believe that sending US troops to Vietnam was a mistake.
it, which divided it in half. When they divided, the residents had only one month of choice - either go to the northern part or they come to southern part. So were you given that time period? Like you and your family to choose sides or no? No. Most of them lived where they lived. You didnt have a choice. Unless you were rich, you ran over the border
and abandoned everything. Thats what I heard. I was not born during that time. So this beyond your choice? Yeah. I was born in South Vietnam in 1962. During that time, Vietnam was going through bad turmoil. The country was not stable
Americans did not approve of this war. During the whole entire Vietnam War, over 50 thousand American soldiers who got there for their first deployment. Back then there was not that much training. They only had 3 months of basic training. Then they were sent to
the battlefield. The replacement rate within the army system was constantly replacement with new soldiers coming in, so the chain of command was guite confused and that is how I was learning about it during the war. You never took part in the training, but you just heard from people or friends who were going in or you just knew? I
grew up in that area so it's not like I never heard of it. I constantly knew about it and especially back than 1965 or 1967, when we already had the black and white TV in Vietnam. We could listen to it on the radio station. We grew up in war times so we were alert about it. Dad, thats all the questions that I have for with the exception of this one - Is
there anything else about the war that you would like to tell us about, and havent yet had a chance to express? I think at the end of 1969, the American missed the chance to stop the Vietnam War. If they had bombed Vietnam would have surrendered, but President Johnson stopped. And because of that the Northern
 Vietnamese were able to get supplies from China and Russia. There were fierce battles during 1973 and spring of 1975, and with the help of the Chinese soldiers, they entered Saigon in April 30. Because of the protests in mainland America, nobody wanted the war anymore. So 1975 is when America pulled out just to finish this war. That is why
Southern Vietnamese like us felt betrayed by the Americans because we could fight in the war, but we didnt have support anymore. At the end of the war, we lost the war starting from the beginning to April 30 in only 51 days. The North Vietnamese
had advanced. Their position on the border, which is the 17th parallel started to go down south. It's not that American support units just that American support unit
bombing them for 2 more weeks we would have won is that what you are saying? We would have won in 1969 if America had kept bombing Hanoi. Everyone knows it. Anyone who studies the Vietnam War knows about it, and because of President Ford wanting to stop the war, they just pulled out. So were you just energized by that when you think
back to it? If they continued, could they have won? They might have still been divided into North and South today. Lets not forget that in 1975, Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia all lost because America pulled out. Three countries all lost to the Communists. Ok then dad, thats all the questions I
have for vou. I really want to thank you for vour time this night. I found it all very interesting and am sure the rest of the class will too. Thank you for having me. *******Courtney McCall, and recently I used the StoryCorps app to interview my grandmother, Reiko McCall.
(to hear the 20:58 interview, click here) Hello, everyone. My name is Courtney McCall and I am a San Marino High School junior. Today, I am interviewing my grandmother, Reiko McCall, in Torrance, California. Grandma, in my US History class this summer, we have learned about the Vietnam War and I have invited you here today to ask you some
questions about the war, but before I get there, I want to ask you some questions about your life before the war. . . with the first question being where were you born? I was born here in Southern California, in 1940.So Grandma, that makes you about a year old at the time of the Pearl Harbor attacked, right? Yes. Your eright. And where were your
father and mother born? Well, my parents were born here in the United States. My father was born in 1909. My mother was born in 1915 in Denver, Colorado. So they were US citizens, but their parents immigrated from Japan. So given that your parents were Japanese and that your family lived here on the west
coast, right around your first birthday, you were sent to an internment camp, right? Yes. The process started when I was maybe a year and a half. We were sent away, taken away from our homes. First, we were taken to the Santa Anita race tracks; where we spent six months in the horse stalls. Then we were placed in trains and sent to Arkansas. Of
all places, it was so far away. Rohwer Relocation Center, Arkansas When did you go to Arkansas? Well, I think I was a year and a half. Which would be around 1942, perhaps. What year did you get out of the internment camps? I think I was a bout three and a half to four. Unfortunately, I dont recall really much about it because I was too young. Although
I did get information from my parents, but they didnt talk much about the internment camps. So actually I knew very little about it. I just knew that my family spent a lot of time. Then we went to Seabrook Farms in Southern New Jersey; where
my father was able to work in a food processing plant, rather than being inducted into the service. Seabrook Farms supplied food goods to the armed forces. I did though have many uncles who served in the United States Army in Europe, not in Asia. Do you remember the living conditions in the internment camps? Or do you remember your parents
talking about it? Well, I remember my mother talking saying that she had to stand in line for everything. Even for meals where they had what they called mess halls. See, you would stand in line to take a shower. Families did not have private
bathrooms. Can you please tell us about your life from the point in time that you got out of the Vietnam War? Oh, thats a long time. Oh golly, lets see. Well, we [her family and herself] spent five years in New Jersey, where I started my schooling. We then returned to Southern California in the same home that my
grandfather was in before the war. (My grandfather used to farm in Redondo Beach, Palos Verdes. He was a truck farmer; which means that he leased the land, raised his produce, and drove them down to the market in downtown Los Angeles every day). So we were able to go back to that home; which was nice. However, there was nothing left inside.
All the furnishings, everything was removed. Then, I came back to California when I was nine. I went to El Camino City College for two years and got my AA. Next, I went to Long Beach State and got my teaching credential. So I was busy going to school and college getting
my degree. Then I started teaching in Torrance in elementary schools and I got married and started a family. I stayed home with my three boys until they were all in school. Then I returned teaching again. So that part of my life was really quite busy. I just remember being fearful that my husband, John, would have to go to Vietnam war. But it turns
out that when he signed up for the draft, they said to him, you dont have to go to serve in the war right now. So thats what happened. How old were your children at the end of the Vietnam War in 1975? Well, lets see. Little John the oldest was born in
1965. So he was around ten years old. And Michael, your dad, was about a year younger, so nine-ish. Dan, the youngest, was three and a half years later so that is six-ish. Now onto my questions about the Vietnam War? Well, I was so busy staying at home and taking
care of the children. All I really knew about the war around me were the protests being done in many different colleges as well as people moving to Canada to avoid the draft. Unfortunately, all wars are ugly. Too many terrible things happened. Too many terrible things happened. Too many people were hurt. So I wasnt directly involved, because no one in our family was in the war
itself. We do know of a neighbor who did serve during the war, though he was discharged before the heavy war started; he had already served his five years. He said that he didnt directly see any combat, but he was in
the area and saw it from the outside. He did see the fall of Saigon at the end of the war. I can say that I meet someone after the war who was directly affected by it. I had a student, a fifth grader who was Vietnamese, but Ill tell you about it later. Were you for or against the war? Well, you always support the United States. We are a wonderful country. I
hate to see people oppressed and being controlled. So of course, I wanted to help. I always support whatever the United States is doing at the time. Even though I didnt like the war, the fighting itself. Did you ever personally witness or participate in any anti-war protests? No.Did you know anyone who got drafted? Only our neighbor who served in
Japan for the US. Did you in any way participate in the war? No, I didnt. I was busy with my three boys. What about the people around you. The people around you the boat people. You know this is after the fall of Saigon; where
the people were trying to escape South Vietnam. I heard about the boat people and I just hoped that they can find refuge and safety. But it turns out that one of my fifth-grade students was one of those refuges. He said, Mrs. McCall, my dad was a pharmacist in South Vietnam and he wanted us to be in a safer place. So we escaped at night; he took my
sister, my brother, and myself. We went in the middle of the night to get onto a large boat with many others trying to escape. Then we came to the United States soil until we went through a quarantine period; which I understood, but we were there
out in the ocean again for about a month. The Red Cross would come to us and bring us supplies. You know Mrs. McCall, I never want to be on a boat again. So it left quite an impression on him. But he was a wonderful student. He learned English very quickly. His name is interesting. It is spelled Duc and in Vietnam, he was called Duck. He knew
enough that he would be teased and called Donald Duck, so he changed his name to Duke. He and his sister and brother all did well in school. They worked very kind people. The sad thing is that they couldn't bring their mother with them. Their mother stayed with the grandparents because those were her parents and she
wanted to take care of them and see that they were safe. Unfortunately, I was transferred to another school two years later, so I dont know what happened to the little boy. I dont know what happened to the little boy. I dont know what happened to the little boy. I dont know what happened to the little boy. I dont know what happened to the little boy. I dont know what happened to the little boy. I dont know what happened to the little boy. I dont know what happened to the little boy. I dont know what happened to the little boy. I dont know what happened to the little boy. I dont know what happened to the little boy. I dont know what happened to the little boy. I dont know what happened to the little boy. I dont know what happened to the little boy. I dont know what happened to the little boy. I dont know what happened to the little boy. I dont know what happened to the little boy. I dont know what happened to the little boy. I dont know what happened to the little boy. I dont know what happened to the little boy. I dont know what happened to the little boy. I dont know what happened to the little boy. I dont know what happened to the little boy. I dont know what happened to the little boy. I dont know what happened to the little boy. I dont know what happened to the little boy. I dont know what happened to the little boy. I dont know what happened to the little boy. I dont know what happened to the little boy. I dont know what happened to the little boy. I dont know what happened to the little boy. I dont know what happened to the little boy. I dont know what happened to the little boy. I dont know what happened to the little boy. I dont know what happened to the little boy. I dont know what happened to the little boy. I dont know what happened to the little boy. I dont know what happened to the little boy. I dont know what happened to the little boy. I dont know what happened to the little boy. I dont know what happened to the little boy. I dont know what happened to the little boy. I dont know what happened to
hoped to think that she would have soon reunited with her family. Do you perhaps remember his age when he came? Yes. He was still very young. He was around ten or eleven. I think he was eleven when he was in my classroom. Did any of your students whose parents served in the war tell you stories of the war? No. Not that I can recall. Grandma, do
you have any other interesting stories about people that you know that were somehow involved in the war? No, the stories that I told were the most interesting ones. I feel bad because I dont have a lot to share about this topic due to the fact that I wasnt really directly affected by the Vietnam War. Grandma, unfortunately the Vietnam War was not the
first time you had experienced war in your lifetime. And with that in mind, Im wondering. Did the Vietnam war bring back any memories of your experiences in World War II, it was a panic you know the United States had never been attacked on any of its territories like that. I think that.
.maybe it brings back the feelings that were involved in a conflict. Its a little mixture of emotions, you know.Last question for you, Grandma. Is there anything else about the war that you would like to tell us about, and havent yet had a chance to express it? Only that it was such a sad thing to see. A lot of it we didn't know about until we saw it on the
news or we saw it in movies made of that time. Then we would see how ugly it was and how awful it was. We would see how many people were hurt and its sad. Theres a sadness to seeing that. War time is a very ugly time and it just hurt so many people were hurt and its sad. Theres a sadness to seeing that time.
the things that were shown on the news. Its truly sad. I just remember hoping that people would learn from these thing and so they wont repeat it. Its a sadness, we need to work more with kindness together. Okay, so thats it, Grandma. Thats all the questions
I have, I really want to thank you for your time this evening. I found it all very interesting and think the rest of the class will too. I dont know if this is that interesting or helpful to you, but thank for having me! Sidenote: The Rohwer War Relocation Center was a World War II Japanese American internment camp located in rural southeastern Arkansas,
in Desha County. It was in operation from September 18, 1942, until November 30, 1945, and held as many as 8,475 Japanese Americans forcibly evacuated from California. The Rohwer War Relocation Center Cemetery is located here and was declared a National Historic Landmark in 1992. Interview (6:22) with George Takei, internee at Rohwer
Relocation Center, Arkansas ****** Erik Olson Interviews his Grandmother, Peggy Olson. (to hear the 8:27 interview my grandmother, Peggy Olson. It am a San Marino High School junior. Today, I am interviewing
my grandmother (or MorFar in Swedish) at my house in San Marino, California, MorFar, in my US history class we have learned about the war? Let me think. I think I was about 16.So, you were
still a child when the war started, did your parents give you much information about the war? No, no I really, I dont think I was aware much that it was going on. Could you talk about your life as a child during the war? Well, things were just normal, I dont that it was going on. Could you talk about war very much. Did
you know anyone who served in the war? Yes, so, he was really hypervigilant during the war, it was a very confusing war, he didnt know the difference between the good guys and the bad guys, and because everybody looked the same. Do you know anyone who tried to dodge the draft? Definitely, I did. In fact, he even changed his name so that the
government wouldnt find him, and he was nervous about it for sure. I know that my grandfather was not in the war, why was that? Well, first he had a deferment because he worked for the defense department and he had contracts with them, and then when he and children, that was another deferment, so that is why he didnt have to go to war. Our
family was really happy about that. You told me that people wanted nothing to do with the war, what is the main reason for this? Well, I think that it was confusing to people. It wasnt clear, and we really werent sure if we were on the right side, and also we lived in an area that was kind of like an island. We lived in Palos Verdes which wasnt actually an
island itself, but we were separate, we felt separate a little bit. Then we moved to Palm Springs and we just never got involved. I know that your sons, my father and my uncle, were born during the Vietnam war, so my question is, what was it like raising children during the Vietnam war? Well, we just went about our daily lives normally, and actually
we preferred not to expose our young children to something so negative. I know that you are a very positive woman, did you try to rub that off on them? Oh absolutely, I really felt strongly about that, so we just kept away from negative things if we could. I think it is so interesting that the war started when you were a child and your generation were
children, but it didnt end until after you had had kids and they had grown up to be teenagers. In my research I found thatthere were several protests at Pomona College, your alma mater, starting in the sixties, did you ever witness or participate in any peace rallies during this time? No, because actually Erik I graduated in 1961, so I dont even know if
they had very many at that time, but our class was considered to be apathetic anyways, so if there had been any we didnt get involved. You never saw any outside? No, I wasnt actually aware of it. I was taking classes and I was studying. I wasnt thinking too much about the outside world. Even though you were a college kid and the typical college kid
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you think gets involved in the war, you never felt that? No, our class didnt and I didnt just because we were working so hard with our books. We were in the library. You also lived during the Korean War. What major differences did you see between the Korean and the Vietnam War? It was a huge difference, and even though I was younger during the Korean War than the Vietnam War, we knew what was going on. We watched television. We looked at the 39th parallel and we saw that we were winning. We would nove up the map and they would move up the map and we would be really happy. Then the North Koreans would move us down and back and wed be very sad. It was a completely different war. Even though the Vietnam War is credited for being the first televised war, you still didnt see many people watching it? Well maybe they were, but we didnt. Our family didnt, it was mostly jungle. You couldnt tell, it wasnt clear. It was just confusing. In a Gallup poll taken in 2000, 70% of Americans believed that sending US troops to Vietnam was a mistake? I cant say. I really dont know at this point. I would feel very badly if I thought that our government was doing the wrong thing, so thats very hard for me to say that we did make a mistake, but I

definitely question it. At the time you said you werent very involved in the war so do you think that plays into it definitely plays into it definitely plays into it definitely plays into it because I just didnt know much about the average. I think that definitely plays into it definitely play into it definitely plays into it definitely play into it American during the war. Thank you very much. Youre welcome. ****** Kyle Yen Interviews His Uncle Jack Shuman, my dads friend and mentor, Jack Shuman. Hi. My name is Kyle Yen and I am 16 years old. Today, I am interviewing Mr. Jack Shuman, my dads friend and mentor. We are recording this interview at his residence in Rancho Palos Verdes, California. Uncle Jack, thanks for giving me the time to interview someone. I thought this would be a good opportunity to learn about someone who my dad respects. So, first question: In what year did you graduate from high school? 1966. Did you do anything after high school? I worked at an abalone company and went out on a boat and took supplies to divers, and brought back the abalone, and then we unloaded at the dock in San Pedro, and we took them to our processing plant. So this was right after high school, that you were doing this? Yeah, I actually started on holidays and vacations working there said, I told my husband about you, and told him you were a good worker, and he said theyll hire you at Quaker Oats, so I went to Quaker Oats and worked there, and I worked there until I went into Marine Corps. Getting into the actual army, were you drafted, or did you go for your basic training? I went into whats called MCRD -- Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego. Do you have any stories from your patrols or your operations? Anything that happened that sticks in your memory. Several things. Um, one night, I was walking point for our company, as the lead person, and its so dark there at night because theres no lights whatsoever, no moon or anything. You cant see hardly anything expect the tops of hills or the h hand in front of your face, so the guys behind you would kind of hold onto an article of yours, so they wouldnt get lost. We had to stay that close together, because you couldnt see anybody. They had passed word up to me, to go a certain direction, and they said, Go in that direction, go into that treeline. Were going to meet up with another company. I was in K-Company. They called it Kilo-Company, and we were supposed to meet up with the Mike-Company, which was the M-Company. So they passed the word up, and we had these ponchos on, because there was some light rain. I had to get inside of my poncho with a compass, and we didnt have a flashlight, so I used my cigarette lighter to get the compass and coordinate which way I was supposed to be going. And then I had to put that away and wait a little bit to kinda get my night vision back, cause you lose it once you have that light on there. So I coordinated myself in that direction as soon as I could see good enough again, and we took off in that direction. Well, we were kind of in lower land and we got to this treeline where they were supposed to be, and the ground was maybe 5 feet higher than the ground we were on, and it had been wet and slippery, like clay, like mush, so you got all your pack and you got a lot of weight, so its kind of hard to get up there. And the guy behind me was my squad leader, so I was helping him get up. And the two of us got up. You had so many or were carrying, your bandolier, your flak jacket, your flak jacket, your flak jacket, your flak jacket, your some of us got up. You had so many on you that your arm would go dead, because it couldnt get any circulation. So I used to carry this claymore mine pouch in front of it, and I kept all my magazines in it, and my M16, I would put a magazine of it between my flak jacket and that magazine pouch that I had. And I would just rest my arm on it, so it wouldnt go to sleep. And I always had my finger on the trigger, and my thumb on the selector. The selector is for the safety, to switch from auto and regular single-shot fire. And I kept my rifle right there, and Id rest my arm on it. Well as soon as we both got up there, somebody told us to stop in Vietnamese, they said dung lai, and that means stop in Vietnamese. So we stopped, we both stopped there. Hes about arms length from me, and these two figures start coming towards us, and the one that was directly in front of me, his legs were shining. For some reason, his legs were shining. For some reason, his legs were shining. That's just against the rules and all. His legs were shining, and that kind of made me think somethings wrong. So, it was so dark, I couldn't see. So they came right in front of my squad leader. Nobody said a word, because we couldn't see who the other person was. We didnt know if they were friendly, or enemy, or who they were friendly, or enemy, or who they got right in front of me and I took my rifle and shoved it in the guys chest, and it seemed like it took forever, but it was only a couple of seconds. And my squad leader put his arm on the shoulder of the guy in front of him, and kind of about the same time, that guy shoved my squad leaders arm up, and the guy in front of me shoved my rifle up. And I just brought it back down, and just started firing. In each magazine I had 18 rounds, so they fell to the ground, and they were still making noise, breathing hard. So I took my magazine out, and put another one in, and I fired some more. Then, someone behind them started shooting off flares, and they opened up on our company that was still outside. So I started throwing grenades, and they had a machine gunner in there, and they opened up on our company that was still outside. So I started throwing grenades, and they had a machine gunner in there, and they opened up on our company that was still outside. So I started throwing grenades, and they had a machine gunner in there, and they opened up on our company that was still outside. we had walked right inside the North Vietnamese perimeter. They had their perimeter set up, and wed walked right inside it. The flare kind of died down, and you could hear them gathering up mess gear. It sounded like they were gone. It was really dark, so we just sat right there for that night. And then the next morning, the two guys were dead there, and the others took off. That really sticks in my mind, I remember that one very well. According to a Gallup poll taken in 2000, seventy percent of Americans believe that sending US troops to Vietnam was a mistake. Do you believe that sending Americans to Vietnam was a mistake? Yes, I do believe it was a mistake, because we had 58,000 people killed, and I cant tell you how many got wounded or lost limbs. We didnt gain anything from it. We basically just walked away from it, when it was over, and there was nothing gained out of it. They put a line called the DMZ, and we could not pass that line. Yet the North Vietnamese could come into South Vietnam, which they did. They used whats called the Ho Chi Minh Trail, and they got supplies and people through there every day. Wed bomb them a lot, but they did. They used whats called the Ho Chi Minh Trail, and they got supplies and people through there every day. Wed bomb them a lot, but they did. They used whats called the Ho Chi Minh Trail, and they got supplies and people through there every day. we couldve finished the war off, but they would not let us fight like we should have been fighting. They shouldve just let us go, but they put that line there, and once you put that line and we cant get them. They didnt let us fight it properly. They didnt let us fight it to beat the North Vietnamese. If they wouldve let us fight it to defeat them, it wouldve been worth it, but seeing how we never gained anything from it and South Vietnamese. If they wouldve let us fight it to defeat them, it wouldve been worth it, but seeing how we never gained anything from it and South Vietnamese. If they wouldve let us fight it to defeat them, it wouldve been worth it, but seeing how we never gained anything from it and South Vietnamese. If they wouldve let us fight it to defeat them, it wouldve let us fight it to defeat them, it wouldve been worth it, but seeing how we never gained anything from it and South Vietnamese. If they wouldve let us fight it to defeat them, it wouldve been worth it, but seeing how we never gained anything from it and South Vietnamese. If they wouldve let us fight it to defeat them, it wouldve been worth it, but seeing how we never gained anything from it and South Vietnamese. If they wouldve let us fight it to defeat them, it would be a seeing how we never gained anything from it and South Vietnamese. If they would be a seeing how we never gained anything from it and South Vietnamese. If they would be a seeing how we never gained anything from it and South Vietnamese. else youd like to share? Well, just that I think it was not necessary. We didnt gain anything from it, and were doing the same thing over in Iraq and Afghanistan. We didnt even know who the enemy was half of the time in Vietnam, because of a lot of them were civilians during the day, and Viet Cong at night, shooting at you. And they got the same thing going in Afghanistan and Iraq. Youre not really fighting people that are in a different uniform, that you can say, Okay, were fighting these guys. You don't know who youre really fighting these guys. You don't know who your guys fighting the pointed at you, youre going to shoot at them. They may not have an army or some kind of military uniform on, so you dont know who your enemy is. I think if you cant go in there and fight an army, instead of trying to fight your way through civilians, not knowing whos on what side, youre really just wasting your time, cause youre never gonna get all the people that are against you. Well, thats all the questions that I have, I want to thank you again for your time this afternoon. I want to thank you again for your time this afternoon. I want to thank you again for your time this afternoon. I want to thank you again for your time this afternoon. I want to thank you again for your time this afternoon. I want to thank you for service, I think it was very educational, and Im eager to share your experiences with my class. Thank you.********* Christopher Yang Interviews San Marino Resident Don Phan. Mr. Phan was 13 years old and living in Vietnam at the time of the Tet Offensive. (to listen to the 18:06 interview, click here) Hello, everyone, my name is Christopher Yang and recently I used the StoryCorps app to interview San Marino resident, Don Phan. Mr. Phan was 13 years old and living in Vietnam at the time of the Tet Offensive. I am a San Marino High School junior. Today I am interviewing San Marino resident Don Phan in Room 14 at San Marino High School. Mr. Phan grew up in Vietnam War. Mr. Phan, before I ask the following questions, I would like to thank you for joining me today. Thank you.Mr. Phan, in my US history class this summer, we have learned about the Vietnam War and I have invited you here today to ask you some questions about that war. The first question I want to ask you is: How old were you at the time of the TET Offensive? I was twelve and a half years old during the TET Offensive, and I remember that well. I turned 13 in late September of that year 1968. In your own words, can you tell us what the TET offensive was? Tet is a New Year Lunar holiday, which in most years is the same day as the Chinese New Year. In 1968, Communist forces in Vietnam ese territory. The attackers were crushed militarily. However, they achieved political victory, especially with the brief occupation of the US embassy in Saigon. CBS anchor Walter Cronkite, the most trusted man in America, declared a stalemate in the war. Of course, these are conclusions reached by the military and other scholars, because I was too young to understand the larger implications of the war. Do you have any memories of that event that you would like to share with us? At the time, we briefly left our home, and we returned to find our walls pockmarked with bullets. We had stayed with my maternal grandparents, about a mile away. Walls outside their house were covered with sandbags. Still, I reproached my grandma for not listening to my advice. I had seen another brief battle in the city during the rebellion against President Ngo Dinh Diem less than four and a half years before that; therefore, I had urged my grandma to build an underground bunker in her house. But she had not had it done. Approximately how long did you live in the sandbag house? Probably a couple of weeks, I would say. It was very short, at least in Saigon, but the battle went on for months in other parts in Vietnam, especially in the battle to end. And there was another battle to end. tell us about your life in Vietnam during the war years? For most of the war years? For most of the war years, Saigon was really much more secure than Baghdad, Iraq, Kabul, or Afghanistan. We lived a typical upper-middle class life, a San Marino life if you will. Private schools, tutors, and country club sports. However, there was no air conditioning, and we used coal for cooking. Of course, we rarely ventured outside the city. Even on vacations in Vung Tau, a beach town about 50 miles away, we never traveled at night. The most remarkable fact about these years was the quickening inflation. By the time I was a freshman in high school, an Army colonel was no longer able to afford tuition for even one child on his official pay. Wow. The Easter Offensive of 1972 also left a strong impression. My 17 year old classmates and I were called up for military service, but our orders were cancelled later. The book Summer of Fire, authored by a former South Vietnamese Army captain, made a national icon of a young colonel killed while leading his battalion on the northern front. Finally, my second cousin, an Airborne first lieutenant, was fragged in his sleep by a trooper under his command. Fragged was a term that came out of Vietnam, which means the trooper under his command. Fragged was a term that came out of Vietnam, which means the trooper under his command. Actually, I knew his second brother much better, but I had known about him. How old were you when you left Vietnam? On October 20, 1973, I was almost a month past my 18th birthday. How did you get here to the the United States? Can you tell us that story? I had graduated high school and came for college. Having missed the fall semester, I spent 2 months in Paris with relatives and arrived in LA on December 30. Can you now tell us your story from the time you came to the United States? First, I was a foreign student. I received refugee status following the fall of Saigon in 1975. Then I was a permanent resident, I became a US citizen in 1982. My parents and siblings arrived right after the fall of Saigon, I received a Math-Computer Science degree from UCLA and an MBA. Like many in my generation, I worked in a variety of industries: oil, banking, tech, hospitality, real estate development and investment, and now health care. Initially, adjustment was amazingly quick. I was immersed in college life, beginning with the mild activism at UCLA. I briefly considered becoming a civil rights lawyer. After business school, however, my career was my main preoccupation. However, I never forgot that I had lost the country where I was born. Even today, I read obsessively about American law and local, state and federal politics, the military, as well as foreign affairs. I also read about immigration, race, ethnicity, and civil rights. In retrospect, the journey continues, developing a new identity and community is more difficult than I thought. My career did not go well because I was too modest with my goals, and not modest enough about my capabilities. That is, that my dreams were too small and I did not work hard enough to achieve them. Have you ever been back to Vietnam since you came to the United States? I went in 1992, when US citizens were first allowed to explore business opportunities. I was there again when the trade embargo was lifted in 1994, and tried to do business thought 1996. I returned briefly for a family visit in late 2002. It took a while, but I returned from Vietnam once again did not resemble the picture painted in the media, the emerging economic dragon with unbounded energy and promise. In fact, it was a closed society, hugely distrustful of foreigners, and especially of its expatriates. The greatest disappointment was that Hanoi no longer resembled the urbane, sophisticated city of my mother's youth. Of course, much has not. I see. What was the best and the worst thing that you can say about Vietnam today? The best thing about Vietnam today is that it is at peace. However, democratic institutions, human rights, and civil liberties remain concerns. The worst thing is that an arrogance remains not just from winning the economic race requires totally different skills. In some ways, Vietnam bears uncanny resemblance to China, except that it is 20-25 years behind. The Vietnam War ended in 1975 and the Communists took over China in 1949. Vietnam opened up to the world in 1992, but China had done so in 1975 and the Communists took over China in 1949. Vietnam opened up to the world in 1994 in 1995 and the Communists took over China in 1949. Vietnam opened up to the world in 1992, but China had done so in 1975 and the Communists took over China in 1949. Vietnam opened up to the world in 1994 in 1995 and the Communists took over China in 1949. Vietnam opened up to the world in 1995 and the Communists took over China in 1949. Vietnam opened up to the world in 1992, but China had done so in 1972. In other ways, Vietnam opened up to the world in 1994 in 1995 and the Communists took over China in 1994 in 1995 and the Communists took over China in 1995 and the China in 1995 and th successful diaspora communities. Mr. Phan, in my US History class this summer, we have learned about a Gallup-Poll taken in 2000, which said that 70% of Americans believed that sending US troops to Vietnam was a mistake. Do you agree with the Gallup-Poll? John Kerry thought so, Bill Clinton, I think Bernie Sanders, and others. Many did not However, if you ask the professional military men who fought the war, most will beg to differ, you can cite Jim Webb, John McCain, and Barry McCaffrey, the most distinguished soldier no one has ever heard of, once the Armys most decorated general officers and its youngest four-star. Those professional officers thought the politicians had lost the war, by setting out vague objectives and promising quick victory when a long war was inevitable. (You can consult the book Dereliction of Duty, by H.R. McMaster, now a lieutenant general.) You can note that American troops are still stationed in Europe, Japan, South Korea decades after the relevant war. We have been fighting in Afghanistan and Iraq for 15 years and the end is not in sight. Those prominent veterans also said the politicians set unreasonable limitations on strategy and tactics (see Prodigal Soldiers, by James Kitfield). I used to think that as a Vietnamese, I was conflicted about the war, and as an American, I considered it a mistake. But now, I am not so sure. Vietnam remains the only war in which American troops were actively engaged for a significant period of time, and then withdrew. We should have learned some lesson. It turned out much worse than the limited insurgency in Greece and the brief one in Korea, we saw the limits of American tactics there. Mr. Phan, thats all the questions that I have for you today, unless of course theres something you would still like to say about the war, but havent yet had the chance? Well, Vietnam should have taught us that a limited war can overwhelm the limited means intended for it, but apparently it hasn't. You can reach Andrew Bacevich, another prominent veteran and professor of history, for more detail in that range. I am going to have to go with Bacevich and conclude that we, as a nation, have not learn a lesson from Vietnam. The question we as citizens need to ask each time our government again wants to go to war is, "Why are we fighting there? What do we want this success to look like? How is it going to end?" That is what Colin Powell said. But, given the financial and human cost to the armed forces, in the last decade and a half, Andrew Bacevich also asks, "Can we afford it? Can we in good conscience accept the sacrifices? Are we avoiding the hard questions, since only a small slice of the US population, the volunteers of the armed forces, personally bears the cost of war?" Paul Kennedy spoke about imperial overstretch, by which means he meant American military and political goals exceeding its resources. Then, Francis Fukuyama wrote of the end of history when the United States stood unchallenged at the end of the Cold War. By the way, you might want to note that Fukuyama was the head of policy planning at the state department. Therefore, he was the successor of Mr. X, or George Kennedy, the man who basically invented the American foreign policy after Truman in 1945. Each of us has to ask which thinker was more correct, Kennedy or Fukuyama. Personally, I think that presidential administrations associated with both major parties, Democrats and Republicans, have set impossible foreign, even domestic, policy goals in the last sixty years, and in the long run we can expect to be disappointed at every turn. Perhaps, we should have more modest goals and work harder at achieving them. Our goals are too big and we are not achieving them, and I don't think we will. I see. Do you have any other opinions on the presidential campaign currently? I believe that both major presidential camdidates do not represent a vision that we can accept, because America will not be successful by either expanding goals, continuing the Obama policy, to fight in Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq, and now Libya, and soon in Yemen and other places. I believe that Hillary Clinton is asking the government to do too much, both domestically and in foreign policy, but Donald Trump wants us to withdraw totally from the world, and I don't think that's possible, either. I believe that we should limit our goals, but work harder at them. Like I said, show up in Europe, but dont even think about fighting in Ukraine or Yemen or any other place you can think of.Okay then, Mr. Phan, thats all the questions I hope the rest of the class will too. Thank you. Thank you.Lesson (4:06), describing the TET Offensive Skip to content How much do you really know about your grandparents, outside of their being your grandparents. reality for many of us is that we know far too little about the lived experiences of our grandparents. We simply dont think to ask. But theres never been a better time to start asking. Chances are, your grandparents would probably love to hop on a call with you and find out that your interested in learning about them who they were before they became your grandparent. We recently asked HuffPost readers to share the one question they readers to share the one question they had to say below. 1. What was your most memorable lesson your mom or dad taught you? Diane Gottsman 2. How would you describe your childhood? Nina H.3. I asked my abuelo, Whats the key to a good life? He said family and empanadas but mainly the empanadas but mainly the empanadas but mainly the empanadas. Gastor Almonte4. What is your favorite joke? Elise Golgowski5. How was our family affected by the 1918 influenza pandemic? Cynthia O. 6. If you could change one thing about your favorite joke? Elise Golgowski5. How was our family affected by the 1918 influenza pandemic? Cynthia O. 6. If you could change one thing about your favorite joke? Elise Golgowski5. story of your courtship and marriage. I actually asked my 90-year-old mother-in-law that this week and the story was a shocker. No one had ever asked and Im taking it to my grave! Gina P. Delving into your grandparents' life story can teach you a lot about yourself.8. What was it like between Blacks and whites in the segregated South during your life? Did you ever consider how wrong things were? Becky Whetstone9. If they lived through those trying times? Christina M. 11. What is something about our Jamaican heritage (or whatever your background is) or family values that you would want future generations to know? George James 12. What sthe secret to being married for so long without losing your mind? Georgette 13. What was it like during the Great Depression? Jaron Fisch 14. If your grandma was a stay-at-home mom: Was there a passion or career that you wished you could have pursued? KarenLee Poter15. If they adopted children: What was the adoption process like in the 1930s? (Or whatever year it was at the time.) Chon P.16. If they got divorced: Why did you divorce grandma or grandpa? Anne S.17. How has the way sex is viewed in society changed since you were my age? Sampson McCormick18. If they werent born American: How did you get your citizenship? Christina Igaraividez19. At what point in dating was it OK to start blaming your farts on grandma? Jason C.20. What is the job you always wanted to have but didnt have the chance to work? Cam Poter22. What are the top values that you think are important for all of humanity? Patty Blue HayesIf you can't meet in person, call or FaceTime with your grandfather.23. What was your favorite holiday when you were a child and why? Jessica L.24. Looking back, was your favorite holiday when you were a child and why? Jessica L.24. Looking back, was your favorite holiday when you were a child and why? Jessica L.24. Looking back, was your favorite holiday when you were a child and why? Jessica L.24. Looking back, was your favorite holiday when you were a child and why? Jessica L.24. Looking back, was your favorite holiday when you were a child and why? Jessica L.24. Looking back, was your favorite holiday when you were a child and why? Jessica L.24. Looking back, was your favorite holiday when you were a child and why? Jessica L.24. Looking back, was your favorite holiday when you were a child and why? Jessica L.24. Looking back, was your favorite holiday when you were a child and why? Jessica L.24. Looking back, was your favorite holiday when you were a child and why? Jessica L.24. Looking back, was your favorite holiday when you were a child and why? Jessica L.24. Looking back, was your favorite holiday when you were a child and why? Jessica L.24. Looking back, was your favorite holiday when you were a child and why? Jessica L.24. Looking back, was your favorite holiday when you were a child and why? Jessica L.24. Looking back, was your favorite holiday when you were a child and why? Jessica L.24. Looking back, was your favorite holiday when you were a child and why? Jessica L.24. Looking back, was your favorite holiday when you were a child and why? Jessica L.24. Looking back, was your favorite holiday when you were a child and why? Jessica L.24. Looking back, was your favorite holiday when you were a child and why? Jessica L.24. Looking back, was your favorite holiday when you were a child and why? Jessica L.24. Looking back, was your favorite holiday when you were a child and why? Jessica L.24. Looking back, was your favorite holiday when you were a child and grandmother about her only brother, who died when he was 38. She cried and cried like it happened yesterday. She really loved him. Shana S. 26. If they switched careers or opted to go to school later in life: Why did you decide to change course midway through your life? Jaron Fisch27. What were your daily household chores growing up? Diane Gottsman 28. Tell me what you know or remember about your own parents and siblings. Where did the family emigrate from? How did they make a living? Where did our ancestors come from? Lori H.29. How did they make a living? Where did our ancestors come from? Lori H.29. How did you make ends meet with so many kids and one income? Cayce Mae F.30. Whos your favorite grandchild? I found out it wasnt me! Lili Michelle 31. What made you approve of my father for my mother? Joey Kidney 32. Were you sexually satisfied in your marriage? Do you wish you were non-monogamous? KarenLee Poter 33. What is your most memorable travel story? Cam Poter 34. What is your advice on developing a rich inner world as we mature? Patty Blue Hayes 35. Whats something that you learned later in life that surprised you that you can share with me? Sunny RodgersBlissed Connections is an editorial series that explores practical ways to strengthen and deepen the relationships you have or want to have with the people in your life. In the rich tapestry of American history, Vietnam veterans hold a unique place their stories woven with courage, sacrifice, and resilience. Engaging with these heroes through thoughtful questions not only opens a window into the past but also provides an opportunity to honor their experiences. In this blog post, we present 50 simple yet powerful questions to ask Vietnam veterans, fostering connection and understanding. Proudly wear hats from our Vietnam veteran hats made in the USA. Discover a blend of comfort and patriotism in each carefully crafted piece. 1. What inspired you to join the military during the Vietnam War? Understanding the motivations behind their service provides insight into the personal stories that led them to the front lines. 2. Can you share a vivid memory from your time in Vietnam?Inviting veterans to recount specific moments helps paint a picture of their experiences.3. How did your perspective on life change after returning from Vietnam?Exploring post-war reflections offers a glimpse into the profound impact of their service.4. Were there any items or rituals that brought comfort during your time in Vietnam? Discovering the small rituals or cherished belongings provides a glimpse into the human side of their experience. 5. What challenges did you face upon returning home? Understanding the hurdles veterans encountered post-service sheds light on the societal context of the time. 6. How has your military service influenced your family and personal relationships? Exploring the broader impact of their service on personal dynamics helps appreciate the interconnectedness of their service fosters a more holistic understanding of their experiences.8. What role did humor play in helping cope with the challenges of war?Uncovering the role of humor provides a nuanced perspective on coping mechanisms during difficult times.9. How did you stay connected with loved ones back home during your deployment?Understanding the ways they maintained connections adds a personal touch to their military journey. 10. Did you participate in any community activities or support groups after returning home? Exploring post-war community engagement offers insights into the collective healing process. 11. What was the most challenging aspect of your service that people might not be aware of? Encouraging veterans to share lesserknown challenges sheds light on the multifaceted nature of their experiences. 12. How did you adjust to civilian life after the intensity of wartime? Exploring the transition from a war zone to civilian life provides a perspective on resilience. 13. Can you share a positive interaction with locals in Vietnam that left a lasting impression? Highlighting positive connections fosters a balanced narrative of their time in Vietnam.14. How did you maintain a sense of hope during the longterm impact of military service on their professional lives provides context to their post-war journeys.16. Were there any particular songs or music that resonated with them offers a sensory connection to their memories.17. How did the cultural and social shifts in the 1960s impact your military experience? Understanding the broader context helps place their service within the framework of the times. 18. Can you share a story that captures the spirit of resilience among your fellow soldiers? Highlighting stories of purpose and motivation during your time in Vietnam? Exploring the sources of motivation provides insight into the mindset that guided them through challenging times. 20. What advice would you give to someone considering military service today? Seeking their guidance for future generations adds a mentorship dimension to the conversation. 21. How did you stay connected with your cultural identity while serving in a foreign country? Exploring the ways veterans maintained ties to their cultural roots adds a layer of identity to their stories. 22. Were there any unexpected friendships formed during your time in Vietnam? Uncovering unexpected friendships formed during your time in Vietnam? Uncovering unexpected friendships formed during your time in Vietnam? Uncovering unexpected friendships formed during your time in Vietnam? Uncovering unexpected friendships formed during your time in Vietnam? Uncovering unexpected friendships formed during your time in Vietnam? Uncovering unexpected friendships formed during your time in Vietnam? Uncovering unexpected friendships formed during your time in Vietnam? Uncovering unexpected friendships formed during your time in Vietnam? Uncovering unexpected friendships formed during your time in Vietnam? Uncovering unexpected friendships formed during your time in Vietnam? Uncovering unexpected friendships formed during your time in Vietnam? Uncovering unexpected friendships formed during your time in Vietnam? Uncovering unexpected friendships formed during your time in Vietnam? Uncovering unexpected friendships formed during your time in Vietnam? Uncovering unexpected friendships formed during your time in Vietnam? Uncovering the vietnam? Uncovering th How did you cope with the loss of communication sheds light on the emotional support system veterans relied on.25. How did your military experience shape your views on leadership? Exploring the leadership lessons learned during service offers insights into their personal growth.26. Can you share a story that captures the resilience of the Vietnamese people you encountered? Highlighting positive interactions with locals provides a balanced perspective on the human connections formed. 27. How did technology (or the lack thereof) impact your communication during deployment? Discussing the technological landscape of their time in service adds a historical context to their experiences. 28. What cultural aspects of Vietnam left a lasting impression on you? Exploring the cultural exchange provides a lens into the rich tapestry of their wartime memories.29. How did your military service influence your perception of patriotism? Discussing the nuanced relationship between service and patriotism adds depth to their reflections.30. Can you share a story that captures the ingenuity and resourcefulness of soldiers in Vietnam? Highlighting resourcefulness showcases the adaptability that defined their wartime experiences.31. How did you navigate the complexities of language barriers while in Vietnam? Discussing the challenges of communication adds a practical layer to their daily experiences.32. Can you share a story that captures a moment of unity among soldiers from diverse backgrounds? Highlighting moments of unity showcases the diversity within the military community, 33. How did your military experience shape your views on international relations? Exploring the broader impact of small acts of kindness during your service? Highlighting acts of kindness adds a compassionate dimension to their wartime narratives. 35. How did you maintain mental and emotional well-being provides insights into self-care practices during challenging times. 36. Can you share a story that captures the camaraderie between American and Vietnamese soldiers? Highlighting positive interactions formed during service. 37. How did you view the anti-war movements back home while you were in Vietnam? Exploring their perspectives on anti-war movements adds a layer of social consciousness to their reflections. 38. Can you share a story that captures the impact of care packages from home during deployment? Highlighting the significance of care packages adds a personal touch to their experiences. 39. How did you keep morale high during mundane or routine aspects of military life? Discussing morale-boosting activities adds a humanizing touch to the day-to-day realities of service. 40. Can you share a story that captures the impact of humanitarian impact adds a positive dimension to their wartime memories. 41. How did your military experience influence your approach to problemsolving in civilian life?Discussing the transferable skills gained during service adds a practical perspective to their post-war journeys.42. Can you share a story that captures the sense of duty showcases the commitment that defined their service.43. How did your family cope with your deployment, and how did you stay connected with them? Discussing the dynamics of family support sheds light on the broader network that sustained veterans. 44. Can you share a story that captures the impact of mentorship within the military? Highlighting moments of mentorship adds a mentor-mentee dimension to their wartime narratives. 45. How did your military service influence your views on democracy and freedom? Exploring their perspectives on democracy and freedom? Exploring their wartime to their wartime wartime. experiences. 47. How did your military experience shape your sense of responsibility to future generations? Discussing their responsibility to pass on lessons adds a mentorship dimension to their reflections. 48. Can you share a story that captures the impact of community support back home? Highlighting moments of community support adds a compassionate touch to their post-service experiences. 49. How did your military service influence your views on the importance of diplomacy? Exploring their perspectives on diplomacy? Exploring th adds a positive and reflective touch to their post-war narratives. As we embark on these conversations with Vietnam veterans, may these questions serve as bridges, connecting generations and fostering a deeper appreciation for the sacrifices and stories that define their legacy.

Questions to ask about the vietnam war. Questions to ask grandparents about ww2. Questions to ask a vietnam veteran. Questions to ask grandparents about the war.

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