

Mahwah Museum - Questionnaire for Mahwah Veterans

Please send completed form to veteran-project@mahwahmuseum.org

Biographical Details

1. Where were you born?-

2. Who are/were your parents and what are/were their occupations?

3. Who are/were your siblings? Names and genders? Which, if any, serve/served in the military? _____

4. What were your parents' or siblings' feelings about you joining the service?

5. What primary and secondary schools or college did you attend?

6. Did you hold any jobs before entering the service?

Early Days of Service

1. Can you tell us about when you went into the military? Were you drafted, or did you enlist?

2. (If enlisted) Why did you join?

3. What or who did you leave behind (family, child, pet) when you left to serve?

4. In which branch did you enter? _____

(If enlisted) Why did you choose that branch?

5. How did you get to your initial point of entry?

6. What type of training or schooling did you have? (Advance Course Warrant Officer Basic, Warrant Officer Advance, Warrant Officer Senior Course, "Boot-strap" Command and General Staff College or equivalent, War College or equivalent (getting a degree-either Bachelors, Masters or PhD).

7. What is your most vivid memory of your time training or in school? What was the best part? _____

What was the worst

part? _____

8. Does any particular instructor stand out in your mind? If yes, why?

9. What was your first assignment after basic training?

10. Did you receive any specialized training? If so, what?

11. Do you recall your instructors? If so, what were they like?

12. Did you qualify with equipment (vehicles, aircraft, radios, weapons, etc.)?

(If Yes) What was training with that equipment like?

13. What was the hardest part of training?

14. Did you receive any promotions? Could you tell me about them?

15. What was the hardest part of the military life-style for you to adapt to? Why do you think it was?

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Wartime Service

1. Where did you serve?

2. What are your recollections of that experience?

3. Were you in a combat, combat support, or combat service support role? Or did the war zone make that designation irrelevant? _____

4. (If combat/ wartime) How did your combat (wartime) experience change you?

5. What kinds of friendships and camaraderie did you form while serving, and with whom? _____

6. How did you stay in touch with family and friends?

7. What did you do for recreation or when you were off duty?

8. Do you recall any particularly humorous or unusual events?

9. Was there something you did for "good luck?"

10. What was the best part of your service experience?

End of Service

1. Do you recall the day service ended? Where were you when your service ended?

2. Did you return home? Where were you?

3. How were you received by your family and community?

4. How did you readjust to civilian life? Did you work or go back to school?

5. Did the G.I. Bill support your education?

6. How did service change you?

7. Did you continue any friendships after service? For how long?

8. How did service affect the way you relate to others?

9. Did you join a veteran organization?

10. Do you attend reunions?

Reflections

1. How did your military service experiences affect your life?

2. What are some life lessons you learned from your military service?

3. How has your military service impacted your feelings about war and the military in general?

4. What message would you like to leave for future generations who will view/hear this interview?

Conclusion

Thank you for taking the time to share your recollections of your military service.

1. Is there anything you would like to add that we have not covered in this interview?

2. Is there anything you've always wanted to share about your service or veteran experience that you never have?

3. What would you like people to know or remember from your story?

4. Is there anything else we should talk about that we haven't covered?

5. What do you wish more people knew about veterans?

Please tell us more about yourself, and what you have been doing since your time in the service. Do you have any photos to share with us?

Thank you!! Please add your name and address and return to Mahwah Museum, 201 Franklin Turnpike Mahwah, NJ.

Would you be willing to do a taped oral interview with us? _____

Would you allow us to include your name on our website in a list of Mahwah veterans? _____

Would you be willing to have us submit your answers to the Library of Congress? _____