Port Washington Public Library Oral History Collection

VETERANS ORAL HISTORY PROJECT *

Blumlein, Frederick J. (1943 -). 1st Lt., U.S. Army. 53 Signal Battalion/Photo Section. Vietnam War.

Growing up on Long Island; becoming Officer – Signal Corp.; Commissioning; Vietnam; role of Signalmen in Vietnam; leadership; meals; friends and family back home; holidays in Vietnam; photography and war experiences; coming home; message for future generations.

19 pages. Open. Interviewers – Tristan Santiago, Tommy Borriello, Mason Chin. 2026.
Video recording (digital) 53 min. 55 sec.

Cappelli, Alessandro (1948 -). Sergeant E-4, Air Force. 557th Squadron – Red Horse. Vietnam War.

Early life; jobs before military; joining the military; training; broken ankle; first mission after basic training; promotions; area served; Korea experience; best part of service; return to civilian life; message for others.

11 pages. Open. Interviewer – Ben Basu. 2026.
Video recording (digital) 23 min. 07 sec.

Cavallaro, Anthony (1964 -). Major, U.S. Army Reserve. Military Police Corp. 800th Military Police Brigade; 340th Military Police Company. Operation Desert Storm; Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Early life; jobs before service; branch; ROTC experience; first assignment; promotions; service; roles, ranks, duties; skills learnt; ending service; reflection on military experience; opinion on current conflicts; message for future generations.

14 pages. Open. Interviewer – Nathan Ko. 2026.
Sound recording (digital) 37 min. 07 sec.

Costello, Chris (1976 -). HM3, E4, U.S. Navy. 7th Comm. USS Nimitz (CVN-68); 2/25th Marines. Operation Enduring Freedom; Operation Noble Eagle.

Introduction; life before Navy; meeting others during training; hardest part of training; areas stationed; experiences in Japan; experiences as a Medic; opinion on places

stationed; best and worst experiences; family's opinion on decision to join the Navy; message for future generations; PTSD.

27 pages. Open. Interviewers – Jeremy Rodgers, Tristan Santiago. 2026.
Video recording (digital) 1 hr. 02 min. 11 sec.

Delaney, Bernard (Brian) (1942 -). E5, U.S. Navy. USS Tutuila; USS Randolph. Dominican Republic Conflict; Vietnam War.

Early life; schooling; jobs before Military; enlisting into the Navy; initial point of entry; easiest part of training; out on the water; joining VFW; Agent Orange; pickle ball; life lessons learned from service; feelings on the present-day military.

12 pages. Open. Interviewer – Charles Matos. 2026.
Audio recording (digital) 30 min. 14 sec.

Ertel, Richard (1946 -). Captain, U.S. Army. 1st Infantry Division; 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment. Vietnam War.

Early life; family's opinion on service; decision to join ROTC; initial point of entry; life before joining; ROTC program experience; military life transition; Purple Heart; frontline memories; end of service; transition back to civilian life; opinion on the war; message for future generations.

15 pages. Open. Interviewer – Nathan Ko. 2026.
Sound recording (digital) 35 min. 54 sec.

Freeland, Robert (1946 -). Specialist 5, U.S. Army. Company D 34th Engineer Battalion; 159th Engineer Group; 20th Engineer Battalion. Vietnam War.

Introduction; education before service; life before service; beginning training; building roads in Vietnam; going to basic training flashback; interactions with others; Agent Orange; rest and recreation; leaving Vietnam; readjusting to civilian life; GI Bill; opinion on military today; message for future generations.

21 pages. Open. Interviewers – Jeremy Rodgers, Shouryan Dharm Sirsi. 2026.
Video recording (digital) 55 min. 17 sec.

Gagliano, Carmelo (Mel) (1968 -). 1st Lt., U.S. Army Reserve. 24th Military Intelligence Battalion; 77th Army Reserve Command attached to ARCENT. Operation Desert Storm.

Introduction; joining Army OCS school; training; basic training, Marine Corp.; Desert Storm; military lifestyle; friendships; after service; plane ride home; joining VFW; impact of service; message to future generations.

12 pages. Open. Interviewer – Charles Matos. 2026.
Audio recording (digital) 33 min. 16 sec.

Landeros, Gilberto, Jr. (1964 -). Major, U.S. Air Force. 43rd Air Refueling Squadron; 22nd Air Refueling Squadron; VT-4; Squadron Officer College, 16th Air Force; 3rd Air Force, Jimmy Doolittle Air Operations Center. Operation Desert Shield; Operation Desert Storm; Operation Northern Watch; Operation Southern Watch; Operation Deny Flight; Joint Task Force Lebanon.

Early life; decision to join military; training for flight school; aircraft KC-135; crew relationships; role in the Air Force; missions in the Arctic Circle; process of refueling in the air; experience in the air; flying over Iraq; dangerous experiences; being Latino in the Air Force; working after service.

12 pages. Open. Interviewers – Jeremy Rodgers, Shouryan Dharm Sirsi. 2026.
Video recording (digital) 40 min. 41 sec.

MacDonald, James (1947 -). Specialist Four, U.S. Army. 500th Engineer Support Company. Vietnam War.

Early life; being drafted; initial point of entry; training; rest and recuperation; taking friendly mortars; taking Huey to Saigon; military wages; first nine months of Vietnam experience; people met in the service; returning home; life lessons learned; message for future generations.

23 pages. Open. Interviewers – Jeremy Rodgers, Ben Basu. 2026.
Video recording (digital) 1 hr. 18 min. 02 sec.

Mizzi, Anthony L. (1949 -). Sargent E-5, U.S. Army. 1/9 First Air Cavalry. Vietnam War.

Introduction; entered Army; overnight in jungle – medal; basic training; Vietnam; friendship; pet dog; returning home; life as a civilian; reflection; message for future generations.

21 pages. Open. Interviewer – Joseph Tesio. 2026.
Video recording (digital) 50 min. 58 sec.

Weber, Qqantum David (1972 -). AT4, U.S. Navy. IM3 NAS Whidbey Island. Operation Desert Shield.

Introduction; joining the Navy; bootcamp; winning Excellence Award; stationed in Whidbey Island; Operation Desert Shield/WESTPAC; impact on personal life; family visit; Chinese conflict; drive home to New York; after service; life lessons.

19 pages. Open. Interviewer – Joseph Tesio. 2026.
Sound recording (digital) 47 min. 08 sec.

Zacchea, Michael (1946 -). Captain, U.S. Marine Corps. 1st Force Service Regiment; III Marine Amphibious Force; MACV. Vietnam War.

Introduction; joining Marine Corps. Officer Candidates School (OCS); training; military lifestyle; Vietnam experience; helping an orphanage; rocket attacks, base camp probes; friendships; R&R at Red Beach and Australia; POW – friend who was shot down; B-52 bombing; Tet Offensive impact; coming home; opinion on war; modern deployments; message for future generations.

16 pages. Open. Interviewer – Jeremy Rodgers. 2026.
Video recording (digital) 44 min. 50 sec.

* This project was conducted by Boy Scout Troop 7 as part of the Eagle Scout Project of Jeremy Rodgers.