**VIETNAM WAR INTERVIEW.m4a**

**ORAL HISTORY TRANSCRIPT**

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A.H. - How old were you during most of the Vietnam War?

H.H. - 21 when it first started

My brother, Richie. He is deceased now he was in Vietnam and he was shot twice.

A.H. - Why did you first join the Navy?

H.H. - I felt like it was my obligation for my country.

A.H. - And then your dad was in the Navy, right? My great grandfather.

H.H. - Yeah

A.H.- Where were you stationed in the Navy?

H.H - Norfolk, Virginia.

On an aircraft carrier that was that was the home port. We just stayed there for a couple of weeks and would go out to sea for 90 days at a time looking for Russian submarines.

A.H. - What was your training and boot camp experience like?

H.H. - Mine was pretty easy, wasn’t hard.

A.H. - What were some like the things you had to do?

H.H. – Nothing, really. I mean, had to wash your own clothes and some boot camps make it hard on you they had a boot camp in Maryland named Bainbridge

I went to the one in Great Lakes, Michigan, but Bainbridge got closed down in nineteen fifty sixty or seven. But there they were. They made you do things that make you do your laundry. Hang it up. Then tear it down and wake you up at two o'clock in the morning. March your across so, wash them again in the morning, wash them and hang them up 3:00 o'clock in the morning. And things like that. They'd march. But I didn't do that.

Mine was just easy. You know, I. I'd be lying if I said it was hard. It was mostly academic and educational. You know, normally you were marching on stuff like that. Shooting guns, firing rifles.

A.H. - Did you have like a physical fitness test that you had to do that every day?

H.H. - Yeah. Pushups, sit ups. Run, run. Running. All the stuff that goes with it.

A.H. - And then what years did you serve in the Navy?

H.H. - 1958 to 62.

A.H. - What was your experience like with your unit? On a daily basis?

H.H. - I was in the helicopter squadron and it was interesting because we did other things. My helicopter picked up the first astronaut, Mr. Shepherd.

A.H. -That's pretty cool.

H.H. - And then that was on the Lake Champlain USS aircraft carrier. And I was on most nights, but I spent 99 percent of my time on the USS. Valley Forge, CVS Forty five. That was a carrier just looking for submarines. But I also picked up the first two monkeys, my squadron, that they fired and shot into space. And if you go to the Kennedy Space Museum down there, we'll see the capsule. They used to use cork on the nose of the cone on reentry and back then cork it doesn’t burn it just glows. But anyway, you'll see a piece. They have it on display there. In Cape Kennedy and you'll see a piece broken off. I broke that off.

A.H. - Wow. That’s pretty cool.

Cool. What museum is that?

H.H. - In Cape Kennedy they have a space museum in Florida.

A.H. - In Florida?

H.H. - Well, if you look and you ever go down there now. I took your dad there when he was young and Johnny. If you ever go there. I think it was mercury capsule. But anyway, it was one of the first or second monkey. They sent into space, but you'll see the nose of it and you'll see the edges sort of ragged. It was a piece broke off. Then in 1960 The Scandinavian freighter, the pine was broke in half in a storm from a hurricane off the Cape Hatteras. And helicopters rescued five of the crewmen, but the ship broke in half and the destroyers also it’s a warship. We had five of them. Well, wherever the carrier went and two submarines they sunk the bowels so it wouldn’t be a danger to shipping.

The captain actually went down with the ship. There with the stern sticking out of the water. As it slid beneath the ocean. USS Pinebridge. It was a Scandinavian crater that was a wild night. The waves were like 30 feet high.

The carrier was just shy of a thousand feet long. When it went down through the water, the waves broke over the bow. Think about that. The bow was 80 feet above water. You know, it was rough.

A.H. - You were on that?

H.H. - Yeah

I was lucky I had a lot of good things, especially seeing the astronauts and monkeys and stuff, and the funny thing was, was the ocean was calm on the first monkey and that they could take someone five miles to turn the carrier around it was so big.

But anyway, it came up real slow when we had this big crane, a dolly. They call it picked the capsule out of the water. They put it on the flight deck and they open the door. And out comes the monkey. And there's about 100 sailors all standing around us. When the monkey walked across the shoulders of all the sailors looking back, as it was pissed off to say , that was a rotten trick you bastards did to send me into space. And the look on his face, too bad I couldn’t get a picture of it.

It was funny, but the other one, they just took him out.

He was strapped in. That was pretty cool being there.

A.H. - That is pretty cool

A.H. - What did you what were some of the things you had to do on a daily basis?

H.H. - Keep the helicopter in good shape. I was a mechanic and a crew member, a pilot, copilot and two crew members. And sometimes I flew as a crew member. But my job was to make sure to fix it whatever that was broken

A.H. - Is that why after you got out, you started your own mechanic shop?

H.H. - No, I was always mechanically inclined. When you're a mechanic, you can fix anything . Doesn’t make any difference whether it’s a plane, boat, or a car or a truck. Ya know mechanics is mechanics.

A.H. - That’s something you were interested in though

H.H. - Well, I was interested and I went to Newark Airport. They didn't pay much the minimum wage back then or 75 cents an hour.

And you know, if you made 70, 80 dollars a week, it was good money to drive up to Newark Airport from where I lived in Middletown. I wanted to be a pilot. And fly commercial. Back then, they just didn’t pay. And what you had to do. I did learn how to fly. And your Dad I took him up a lot of times and he even flew the plane a couple times when he was little seven or eight. But I flew out of Colts Neck, I got the license and stuff there. I didn't go commercial because you need 2000, 3000 hours to get your pilot's license for commercial.

A.H. - Right

How did the media portray the Vietnam War? Do you remember, like, what was going on the news in the newspaper at the time?

H.H. - Oh yeah they portrayed it as negative, totally negative. There was riots in Kent State. I think it was right around now. I forget the date but it was students at Kent University rioting. And now the National Guard went in and shot a couple were killed. But the country was divided. And now the Vietnam War was actually sponsored by Mr. Kennedy before he got shot. He wanted to end the war, he saw no reason for us to be there. And he thought it was just the civil war. And we had nothing to do with it. So he actually, before he was assassinated, took 10000 people out of there in Nineteen sixty two. I guess it was sixty three. He was shot. I think he was shot in 63 of November.

But anyway, he didn't believe in a. Then when he was assassinated, Johnson took over and in 1965. Johnson turned around and McNamara and General Electric. There's a lot of money in war and General Electric and McNamara and McNamara. Just a couple of years ago, was on television. They kept the war going. Just to make money. But 58000. Over 58000 soldiers died in Vietnam. There was another hundred twenty five thousand were wounded, including my brother. And when these soldiers come back, they had nothing to do with it. While they were drafted, the government drafted them back then. Back then, there was a draft, you didn’t volunteer. I volunteered, but they draft you and you go for two years to work wherever the war was. But my brother was drafted. He was sent over there and Richie came back and then he got out of the army. And then they were going to send my younger brother Jackie over. And Richie told the government. Look, I don't want my brother over there. I'll go back. I'll reenlist if you keep him in the United States.

That kept Jackie in Colorado and Richie went back to Vietnam and he got shot.

But the people did not like the troops coming home.

Now they’re apologizing. They spit on them. They did everything against them.

They call them names. And that really ticked me off.

We only live the way we live because of the military's. Take away our military. You won’t like your life at all. Two wars we didn’t belong in Vietnam and Iraq.

A.H. - Do you think the media was more one sided in order to protect the general public of what was actually going on in Vietnam?

H.H. - It was biased.

The media and the media has just started changing to the liberal side in 1965. That's when drugs start become a public person all over the place and stuff, and the media was just like liberal and now against the Conservatives on this stuff. The Democrats actually liked war and they were the ones that if you look at true history, Democrats are the ones that got us in war with the exception of Bush. And the Republicans are the ones that got us out of war and not just like Trump is doing as don't belong in places in the world. We belong at home. And then anyway, Vietnam should have never happened. It did and it did. We could have won it, but they played stupid military games. My brother said that the other guys fought like how would get up to a certain line with 38 Parallel when they got there. They told me to stop and then the Vietcong took over and came back. We weren't allowed to fight the war. They just wanted to keep going and going and going. That's why it was so much essential. There was no point in us being there whatsoever. And maybe after that the media started in the nineteen sixty five being biased. Now it is totally biased. It’s 100% to the left, the liberal side. And now if you don't read The Wall Street Journal, the truth of it is Alyssa all the rats are just put, they might as well be printed in Moscow.

H.H. - You see me on Facebook. I speak my mind at times.

A.H. - Oh, I see you.

H.H. - Yes, the thing of it is I'm not doing it for me. I’m at the end of life

And this thing of it is, as you know, I lived in the best of times. So they did change, start changing in 1965.

But the thing of it is that is what these people are doing now. Trump won and he’s not a politician. Everything he does is for the people of this country.

Everything that is screwed up. Is from the last four presidents. The last great president was Reagan. George Bush senior was only in for four years and he was pretty much occupied with Desert Storm. And he'd let the domestic side slide Bush senior, was pretty good. His son was a loser. Clinton was a loser. Obama is actually the enemy and he is not a citizen. And his papers were sealed and he is a Muslim. And everything he did something about. This is from George Washington, now the founder of the country to George Bush, the forty third president. When Obama took office from thirty forty three presidents, the country wanted to nine point two trillion dollars worth of a debt. OK. 1 When Obama took over in one year, in one term he put us. He doubled it. He will add another 10 some trillion. And you got to ask yourself, where did the money go? There is no infrastructure. He brought the military down to nothing and almost destroyed it. You know, this is the truth. This is what the media does not let out because the only place you hear it is where you can sneak it in our Facebook or something like that.

Or maybe The Wall Street Journal or Fox News, all the rest, CBS, ABC, NBC, it's all far left media. I mean, this. And the reason I'm doing I guess so and I would give up my life for you because I want you to have the life I had. You know get your education. Enjoy life. Able to do the things you want to do when you want to do them. But what they're after is central government. One person in control of everything you do and say. And look at China now. They are given. And Google is helping them to giving them the information that everybody has a number and you get points, good points and bad points and you get bad points. You don't get credit cards. You can't travel on buses, you can't travel on planes. You think that's cool?

A.H. - No.

H.H. - That's what they're doing here. You can hop on a plane tonight and go to California. Yes. Yeah. Well, under those rules, you can't. But this is the only country that builds fences to keep people out not people in. And, you know, when you get into politics, people get nasty and it's one sided. They feel this and that. It's not Republican or Democrat. Understand this. It's right and wrong. And its as simple as that. And what Mr. Trump was doing. I applaud him. He is doing everything he can possibly do. But he's got so much against him. He's a lying CIA liars and now the FBI. This is sad because these are our top organizations. How can he ask the FBI to investigate it? The head of the FBI is corrupt.

But you learn as you go, but you know, you've got to stick to the truth.

They were going to keep me in but they didn’t extend my tour of service for another four years because of the Vietnam war. They want to keep me as a helicopter getting back to that. But they did miss the extension.

A.H. - So if the war was not going on, you would have extended your length of service.

H.H. - I don't know. They needed. They needed certain people. Helicopters were a big thing in Vietnam. You know, I was a helicopter mechanic, so I got notice they might extend me and a bunch of other guys. But no, they didn't. And I got out in 1962. But I had some good times they dropped me off in Puerto Rico on January 19th and picked me up on April 10. I never to this day understand why. If you can realize the aircraft carrier, had five destroyers. Warships protect the two submarines. They pulled up off the coast of Puerto Rico and there's a naval base there, Roosevelt Roads anchored off they lowered the landing barge. They put one person in it. Me. They took me to shore, dumped me off, and they went back and they sailed off. They came back in April. Then they left me there.

I don't know what that was all about to this day. I did nothing but go around the island drinking and eating and having fun. I don't have a clue why they singled me out why they did it or what the hell it was all about. But I went there from January 19th to April 15th.

I think that had to be probably be had to be 1960, 61. If you asked me what I did, did nothing. Walked the beaches. Ate, drank, slept.

A.H. - How were the people in Puerto Rico like? Did you meet any of them?

H.H. - You haven't met them yet. My longest friend is a color fellow. Walts. We're still friends after 60. Some years. Real close friends. But he was at my 50th and he just missed my seventy first birthday. You would have met him by one day.

A.H. - Yeah, I was there.

H.H. - He just missed it. But Walts was a color fellow. There was a base. It was a little town back then. All the roads were dirt and slush. Puerto Rico. But the one incident there was. We went into the nearest town and the police rode horses and the town was 21 miles away. And I'm trying to give you a little book to transfer from Spanish. I'm talking to the cop trying to figure out where I am now. Get to since the biggest city, San Juan and stuff and Walts we were drinking. Walt had one a little bit too much. He jumps over on the cop's horse and rides away while yelling I am sober and then all the Puerto Ricans in a bar came out. And broke the bottles and chased me. I ran 21 miles back to the base.

A.H. - Oh, my goodness.

H.H. - That’s why sailors got a bad name.

That was I was just five miles short of a marathon and I never ran so fast in my life. A bunch of Puerto Rican's 20 of them yelling at me with broken bottles. Walt got a couple of weeks and in the brig in prison aboard ship. They used to make him get up in the morning, do push ups, and I'd tell the marines they did him wrong so they’d make him do them over and over again. But we were good friends or the best of friends. And ironically we still are sixty two years later. We still talk to each other. Whenever he comes out, he comes over.

A.H. - That’s Crazy

H.H. - One thing I used to take him to the neighbors when we lived in Middletown and say, hey, meet my new neighbor. I just sold my house to him. Walt was cool he was the Golden Gloves and we ruled nobody messed with us. Well anyway the thing of it is, what is the way it goes? Good times and bad times. And the biggest thing I'll ever know every morning on board ship. The captain would say it all hands man your battle stations. So then they gone, gone, gone. And you go through your drills and they would say he would always say, this is a drill. But then we were in the Caribbean one day and one morning and we hear all hands man your battle stations. This is not a drill. This is not a drill. They turn the ship around and headed to Cuba. In this, we joined the blockade of ships

That was 1962, so the Russians couldn’t put missiles on Cuba.

A.H. - So that was like during the Cuban Missile Crisis, right? When Fidel Castro was trying to gain control over Cuba.

H.H. - Yeah, I want to say. He came here, I think it was in nineteen fifty nine. He slept in Central Park.

A.H. - Fidel Castro?

H.H. - Yes, I. And that was just when he took over Batista was the guy that ran it. America supported Batista and then Castro took over. And the funny thing is, is all the cars you'll see in Puerto Rico and Cuba, rather, are cars of the 50s. 90 percent of all the cars you see here are just cars. Because they kept these cars running all these years. But it's pretty interesting. Cuba was a beautiful, beautiful country when Batista had it after Castro took over. It just went into the sewer. But this was one of the most impoverished countries on the planet.

A.H. - How did you react to the war? With everything that was going on, did you agree? Like in our involvement to help Vietnam, to help South Vietnam and to prevent the spread of communism and everything?

H.H. - Well, the thing of it is ya know. What do you know about the war and your origin? It's just like news when someone you read a newspaper, you assume it’s the truth. Just like when you called. I'm reading The Wall Street Journal and they have good journalists and they they present the truth that they make a mistake to be in their papers next day, retracting it. As you put it. Not so much what newspapers put it as, what they don't put in daily newspapers. How many newspapers do you see a picture of Mrs. Trump in?

A.H. - Not very many.

H.H. - Right. And she's quite a woman. She speaks five languages. She's beautiful. She's an immigrant. She's very successful. She's a multimillionaire on her own with a fashion business. Yeah. But that's all we saw was Michelle Obama. Michelle Obama that hated the country.

A.H. - So do you think like during the Vietnam War, that the media left out a lot?

H.H. - I think the truth of it is the theme was that we didn’t belong there.

The reason why the truth of it was we were only there because Johnson wanted us there. He was president in 1965. He took Kennedy’s place and he was reelected. He served for a term and a quarter. He finished Kennedy's term and only won one more election. One in 1968 came by. They hated him. And Richard Nixon got us out of the war. But the thing of it is, as you only know what the papers are going to tell you, and they didn't want the war, but nobody admitted why we were there and we were there because, General McNamara and Johnson wanted us to be there and so they could make a lot of money. We didn't belong there. We had no business being there. Look at Vietnam today its one of our best trading partners.

A.H. - Yeah. Do you agree, though, like with the part of the like, Eisenhower is like domino theory and like helping other countries out to prevent communism from spreading there. So then it wouldn't further like towards like the Western Hemisphere and everything.

H.H. - I believe in. Yes. Eisenhower was a great leader. But I believe in the domino theory. Communism and socialism doesn't work. What is the greatest country on the planet? Most successful?

We are. Let me say today's Wall Street Journal Dow hits the record as the United States outpaces all the rest of the world. Do you realize that the rest of the world most of them are in recessions, depressions? Yeah, I'm. If you know history to think of it as they don't teach your history. Was my argument when you were in high school. But in the turn of the century, nineteen hundred go back then what? Two countries were on a par with the Shah G. GROSS National Product GNP. That's what you're now. What you're export and sell. Okay. To us, there was two countries that let the whole world. There. Yeah. Will go on and on, but there's two countries, which was the United States and Argentina and then nineteen hundred. Now one would think that we both exported wheat, corn, cows, cattle and the same and we had the same amount of money coming in. You think of it as his nineteen hundred. Argentina chose to go socialistic and they went downhill. Nineteen twenty five. There was this communist just like Bernie Sanders it was Juan Perez. He was Bernie Sanders then, and the country went total socialistic. OK, where is socialism and basic communism. Socialism. Today. If Argentina stopped paying all of its bills right now and took all the money it takes, then it would take them 70 years to pay off the debt. Think about that. And the thing of it is, is that all the corn and the cows, the stuff they exported and they import now and the country is falling apart because they chose socialism.

And what did we do? We are we have a capitalistic republic. Capitalism is going with what this country gives you as opportunity. You have the opportunity for education. Then after you get your education, you go to business. You can do anything you want to do.

That’s what you did? Yes. I had five different businesses. They were all successful. I mean, you work hard. I mean, you know, it's not a 40 hour week sometimes, but, you know, it's got its perks. I had a lot of vacations and stuff, whereas I took your mother and your father to Cancun on vacation in the same year I your grandmother to Ireland the same year. We went to Canada in the same year we went to the Outer Banks in North Carolina and on and off for vacation and three or more out of the country. And I did that just now with my business.

A.H. - At the time, what was the primary role of the Navy in the Vietnam War? What was the Navy doing to contribute?

H.H. - They launch planes off the coast of Vietnam to bomb Vietnam

A.H. - Did they? What was that bombing? There was a bombing in Vietnam as well.

The operation Rolling Thunder.

H.H. - I don't know. I'm not familiar with the names. What was the bunker?

Hamburger Hill was one of the biggest battles about the way it was like whatever it was, was like 80 of our guys against to 3000 of our guys and we won. But the thing of it is the carriers like I was on those carrier site carriers do certain things. Mine was a CVS Sports and we look for submarines to CVA or CVS attack carrier. And these carriers would sail off the coast of Vietnam and they would bomb all of Vietnam all over to Viet Cong was from the air, from the ocean. And some of the battleships can shoot. They could shoot 25 miles.

So they would cruise 10 miles off the coast and shoot 15 miles inland, you know, and never go ashore. But a battleship had a 16 inch shell. This was the size of a Volkswagen that hit. They were very powerful weapons. But Vietnam, in the end, summarize. It was a war that should have never been. It was a civil war, if anything, the North Vietnam were influenced by communism? Yes, but it wasn't. It really wasn't. Yes. Russia was trying to the communists But that wasn't the crux of it. It was the north versus the south, just like the civil war we had in this country, north versus the south.

A.H. - How did you feel when the war was finally over? When Saigon fell in 1975.

H.H. - I was glad.

I was real glad. I lost. I had a friend, Richie Bellicose in the house who are only remember the house. We lived in Middletown. But he had a 57 Chevy convertible. I did a lot of work on his engine. He was happy. And then he went off to Vietnam. He was 17 years old. He joined and went over to Vietnam. He lost both of his legs and they shipped him to Hawaii to recover. And then he died about a year later. He was only 18 years old, 19 years older Richie. Bellicose. Nice kid. You lose your friends and your relatives. War is not nice its necessary but its not nice. So its not nice. The sad thing of this. I was honored and someone other not just me, but this town here, is Jewish in Margate. But we go to the beach. There are a lot of stuff. And they sort of took a scent, but they had a big dinner for the Viet veterans yesterday. And they gave me an award and now just a recognition. Yeah. Then dinner and stuff. But then we had veterans there still from World War Two.

It was nice. And they had a fourth grade serving the food and the singing the songs. It was really, really a nice affair. But the thing of it is, as you stop and think about two people, Hitler and Stalin are responsible for over 200 million deaths. Think about that. And Europe was beautiful. I love Europe. I've gone about eight times, nine times now. And I love it. It's gorgeous. But what? The bombing world war two to destroy Germany especially. It destroyed a lot of London and some a to take about 200 million people dead because of two people, Hitler and Stalin.

A.H. - I know, it's crazy.

H.H. - Well, people don’t want to control. That's why you don't want this country is broken into. Three departments, manage three divisions, executive judicial legislature. That's so no single person has power. And, you know, these things you take for granted and all but that when you have socialism and communism, there's one person runs of all China. They just selected their lifetime leader. One person calls the shots. But like Stalin, he murdered Stalin himself. Murdered 150 million of his own people. And you know, the thing of it is so I wonder what is one of the biggest countries in the world today? Russia. How many times zones are the United States?

A.H. - Including Alaska isn't there? 5 or 6.

H.H. - There’s four not including Alaska or Hawaii

Well, just in the continental United States, where there's this, there's a trivia question, what state has two time zones? The only state out of the continental 48 states.

A.H. - Texas?

H.H. - That's what you would think but it’s Florida.

A.H. - Oh, right. Because the panhandle.

H.H. - And that's why they change the election laws and closing times. Because if someone is yelling in St. Augustine, oh so and so is ahead he’s winning this and that. And then the people in the panhandle say why vote? So they don't they're not allowed to broadcast anything till the next. But Russia had Twenty two time zones. Think about that. Twenty two time zones.

A.H. - Insane.

H.H. - Yeah. They just change that I think is 12. But the thing over there is that Russia had one time 200 million people just 10 years ago. Russia honor to 168 million people.

Today, Russia has 148 million people. And I think it's the second biggest country on the planet. And that's less than half of what we have. And you know why? Abortion and alcohol, drinking. Now people trying to get the hell out of there. The only thing Russia has is a hell of a lot of missiles.

A.H. - If you could go back, would you choose to would you like be more persistent in extending your contract with the Navy? Would you have wanted to go to Vietnam and experience?

H.H. - Yes, absolutely. I'm trying to think of who said that famous statement. I regret that I have one life to give my country. If I could go back at my age today, 78, I'd go fight for this country, for you and all. I would do it. I would give my life up. You don’t realize I can't. There's no way I can tell you. You live in the best country. It is. And right now, thank God we have a man fighting to keep it. The way it was is the way it should be. Mr. Trump he is not a politician. I remember before he ran, he made a statement. I don't like the way this country is going. And Trump has got to do something about it. And he did. And I championed him. And, you know, you'll see. Don't believe the media because they're liars. Fox gives you probably 85 percent of the truth because they even have a couple people that are sorta, just like the FBI has spies and I'd say CIA spies on it. Fox News gives you the truth and that's what you want is the truth? How can you make intelligent decision with lies? How many times have you met people or talk about other people? And the people are basically good people. So, you know, you just got to keep the basics in mind. What is the truth? And if this country fails… Where are you going to go?

A.H. - I don't know.

H.H. - I've seen poverty. I've been to I've countries in Africa and stuff, and that's. You have no idea. I think some people should see more of that. I saw Europe 14 years after WWII was bombed and Naples, they were just starting to rebuild Naples, Italy. I was there.

I know the buildings were just rubble. That was a beautiful city at one time.

The Vietnam war to summarize it as a war, that should have never happened. Basically, it was just to summarize that it was a civil war between north and south.

Yes, the north was communist inspired, but that wasn't the biggest question. Look what happened after the war. They got together. Everyone’s happy now. Look at that lunatic. Kim Jong Un and North Korea. That guys, a lunatic. People are eating grass.

There's poverty. Look, look at the world lights on a map, how the cities are all lit up around the world. North Korea is black. They don't have electricity.

A.H. - Do you think Vietnam could have ended up like Korea if we didn't step up and help them?

H.H. - That's a possibility. Yes, that's a definite possibility. They say we lost. We didn't lose. The thing of it is as. There was so much animosity about us being there and the people were really speaking up, and so basically what we did was we got out. That's when they overran Saigon. Too bad I had some friends here that are about that came here, and now they were one of the few ones that escaped South Vietnam and then came to America. Doesn't Nixon took em? I forget how many million of them I think are 110 million or sometimes and that they remember what it was and how nice some people. I like what Japan did to China. China will never forget about the rape. They can't make murdered over two hundred and fifty thousand people. Children, women. But anyway, you know, yours is what centered around Vietnam.

A.H. - Yeah. Can you tell me more about what your brother's experience was like?

H.H. - To fight. He was a good shot.

A.H. - Was he in Navy Army?

H.H. - Army is an army, and he was one of the first ones shot. And then they sent him, I don't know, specifics, but they sent him to Hawaii to recover. And when he recovered, they sent him back. He got shot again. Then they sent him, to Australia to recover. And he didn't want his brother Jackie to come over there. So he stayed there. But they gave him light duty at the time. And his light duty was to protect an orphanage there when he was at the orphanage. He was telling me and Richie was a really good guy. He won three college scholarships and his sister, Nancy. Can show you his report card. Ninety eight plus across the board. Calculus, trig, Latin biology, chemistry. Now, no stupid subjects. But he when my father was an alcoholic and then never allowed him to go to college and he got drafted. But anyway, Richard, the third time in eight days they put him in this orphanage and a Marine turns around, tells them, Hey Richie you want to shoot him or do you want me to? But he says, shoot who. And here is a little 7 year old boy coming up. And what the Vietcong did was put explosives on the kids and put them inside the orphanage to blow him up. And the Marines used to shoot them. And Richie said, I'll never shoot a child in my life for no reason. And then he started having a mental breakdown after that. He would not shoot a child period for any reason.

A.H. - That was big issue over there was some of our troops that we were sending over there, like our advisers were turning and forgetting why they were there in the first place and they were just killing Vietnamese people.

H.H. - What happens is. So say when you're in a war and what's happened in Afghanistan now and I like the see war. The War will say the Vietcong will come out of a house and shoot at you and kill your buddies. Right. What are you gonna do? And then it goes back into the house and yell at anybody in the house and just machine gunned down. You got one second to decide. You know, I'm going to die or They're going to die. And war is horrible. And so many innocent people get caught. But it's not now. You can't send someone over there. And I see this in Afghanistan, that guy, a true grenade at his buddy, and he killed his buddy. And so he shot the guy and they court marshalled him for doing that. Oh, yeah. He didn't have a weapon on him. But wait a second he just threw a grenade at our soldiers and he killed one. Yeah. It's a tough decision. You can’t unless you’re there. How many cops are dying in this country today because they pull somebody over for speeding and they die. It shouldn't be. A guy goes for something in the front seat.

A cop doesn't know if it’s a gun or What it is, you know, or something. You don't know. Same thing with war ya know, its either kill or be killed. People can't speak for other people because they're not there. And it's horrible. It's horrible. I don't see any reason to kill children. I just there's no excuse for that.

A.H. - Do you feel like the Vietnam War was the toughest war? Like the actual people that were there in combat? The Vietnam War is considered to be one of the most gruesome and violent wars for our soldiers who have been involved in the combat seen over there.

H.H. - It was. Yes. And you can't. I spoke to so many people in that war, a matter of fact.

And your grandmother here. Her best friend's husband, Ray, cringed and spent time in Vietnam. Spent time in the war over there. I don't know what position he was and let him go. If you want to talk to him, maybe sometime they could tell you something about you and give you his phone number. But the thing about this is a war that should've never been. And the reason we were there because we had a corrupt president. And now there's a strong possibility. Yes. Another whole story saying that Johnson was the one behind Kennedy's death. Yeah, yeah. Yeah, I know. But the thing is, as we know, Vietnam we didn’t belong there it was one of the bloodiest, deadliest wars. My brother told me he was in a foxhole one night and the Vietcong would say, hey, a watch falls maybe 20 feet long. Right. This actually happened. They said, hey, Ritchie. And they think, listen to you. When you're talking back and forth at night and, you know, hey, Ritchie, did you check Eddie over there and said, go on from Eddie? And they find that Eddie had his throat cut. In other words, they snuck in and cut his throat and snuck out in the same foxhole. They were in. How do you think you're gonna feel? You know.

A.H. - Yeah.

H.H. - It was brutal. It was just horrible. And he said, you know, guys would stay awake for days on end. They just feared it. The thing is I want to answer your questions honestly and all and it was a war never should have been the truth or in retrospect, Johnson was the one that perpetuated it and kept it going. And it got so bad the public turned against it.

And Nixon, once he was elected, Nixon got elected because he said we'd get out of Vietnam. He did. As far as Nixon goes like you want. Now you hear Watergate, just everything. But Nixon did create Watergate. If you had a friend, if you were helping someone run for president. Right. And you did something like you snuck into my office and got the records and said, hey, look at know what the Democrats are doing. Nixon, what he did isn't that easy. Wait a second. That’s not cool. But he tried to cover up their actions. And that's what they got him for. He didn't do anything. The people that didn’t support him did. But Nixon was a great president. He got us talking to China. He got China together. He stopped the Vietnam War. But then he was impeached.

A.H. - Do you remember when the national security adviser, McGeorge Bundy. Do you know who that is?

H.H. - I know that he's like back in Vietnam.

A.H. - Like during the time of Vietnam, the national security adviser McGeorge Bundy wrote a telegram to President Johnson saying that we should get out of this war. Our reputation is on the line. And he wrote this When the air base, Pleiku that attack took place. Do you think that he was right, that we should have pulled out, pulled all of our troops out?

H.H. - Exactly. Yes. Yes. And, you know, Kennedy sent a team over when he was alive and said, what is Vietnam all about? His advisors came back and said, we don't belong there. And then Kennedy took 10000 troops out there. Then he was assassinated and Johnson took over. And in 1965, the same thing Johnson sent a team over to Vietnam saying What's this all about? And an adviser said, Mr. President, we don't belong there. His exact words were. Nobody tells me what to do we’re staying. And he sent more troops over to keep the war going. Just to make money for G.E. and McNamara. And you can check history. I was surprised by six years ago he came out and admitted that and so it was Johnson. That perpetuated it he didn’t start it. But, you know, it kept us there and got us involved. And it got so nasty and ugly. 58000 young men died and a hundred twenty five thousand were wounded. For no reason. No good reason. So anyway, that's the crux of it. Now, we didn't belong there we should have never been there. I know personally about half a dozen people killed there. Richie Bellicose was one of my closest friends and he didn’t get to live until 22. What's the next question?

A.H. - Do you remember the speech from the South Vietnamese president, Ning Dinh Diem? He came to Washington, D.C. in May of 1957. This was like two years after the Geneva conference. He basically came over and he did this whole speech in D.C. thanking our country for. Helping them get through everything that was going on.

But he also said that he also said that the United States intentions to influence a Western style nation were inappropriate for a society like Vietnam. So he is basically thanking everyone for their help. But then he was also saying that. He felt like it was inappropriate for the United States to be pressuring a Western style.

H.H. - No, I'm simply saying that's an ambiguous question, because they're saying what is this like is slanted, like saying, you know, are we guilty for supporting a Western style? OK, after World War 2, Germany had a convention and split Germany right down the middle with the Berlin wall. I'm sure you read about that coming down in 1989 when President Reagan took it down. But you had West Germany and you had East Germany. OK.

East Germany was controlled from the Cold War all that time by Russia. We controlled ideas. And freedom and stuff we took out in West Germany till 1989. West Germany was one of the richest countries on the planet. OK. East Germany was, one of the poorest countries on the planet because of communism. OK. The western ways were presented in West Germany and as rich as West Germany was when the wall came down, they united. They took the money and tried to go. But East Germany was 20 years behind times in everything. So that's the difference. The Western ideas. Look at Korea. South Korea is one of most prosperous nations in the world. What? Why? Western ideas, freedom, capitalism and everything the riots today in Hong Kong. The current news today. Why? Because Hong Kong was British controlled. And then Britain gave it over to China, which is communism. And then the thing of it is, as you try to realize, it gets most of its money from Hong Kong and Saigon, because the capitalistic and still the biggest money makers in Hong Kong is the biggest money maker in the world. And it is it's a country. It's interesting. If you want to start a business in Hong Kong, you going out at night and I think six dollars, you get a permit and seven o'clock tomorrow morning you can open your business.

But the thing of it is now you've got to realize this is this is why where you know what you're trying to do, western civilization. What is it as freedom as society? Look at that as well. It was the eighth richest country on the planet ten years ago. And they chose socialism. And that's why. Now, look at them today. Your shelves are empty. The people are clean. They then went to Colombia. They went to Brazil. There are no other countries because millions of people are leaving and the shelves are empty and there's no power, there's no electric. So you ask yourself, what do you want? Venezuela was ten years ago, one of the wealthiest countries and the best vacation spots in the world. Then it went communistic. Now you got to this idiot down there running it. So we are when you say you go back to. He says the president comes over in 1967 and says no Western should impose its ideas. Well, maybe we shouldn't. But look its the truth. Look at Venezuela today. Look at North Korea today. And look, East Germany.

A.H. - Right. Do you do you know a guy named Walter Cronkite? Have you ever heard of him?

H.H. Yes.

A.H. - So many historians and former policymakers argue that Cronkite's words marked a turning point in the war in the way that he displayed the Vietnam War in the news.

Do you agree with this?

H.H. - I agree that he had a lot of influence.

A.H. - At the time, polls rated him the most trusted man in America, too. To receive news from like the Americans feel like or felt like he was the most accurate newscaster.

H.H. - But the truth of it is history is broken. At that time he was but the truth of it is he was biased. He was biased and he wasn't honest. I'm trying to think was Walter Cronkite was the one? Or it was another one. Geez. Hey. They fired him for lying. And he was a big shot on TV all this time. I know one was Williams. He was gone. Yeah. They fired him for lying. And he was the one that created a lie and think about George Bush not being in the Air Force or something.

He made a phony story about that. So, yeah, that's the biggest thing what determines someone's character is their history, and if someone's a liar, he's a liar. You realize they've been investigating Mr. Trump for three years and haven't found anything on him. The FBI, the CIA and everybody, the news. So now what they're doing is they resorted to lies, outright lies. So, you know, it's got to be careful. Walter Cronkite was the one we see was turned out. He was a liar. He was fired from CBS for being a liar.

A.H. - Oh, I didn't know. He's in the book that I'm reading about. And I was just curious to see if you knew anything about him.

H.H. - Think of it is it's time. I would just turn on. I used to watch the obvious stations, ABC, NBC and, you know. And the thing is, is at the time I was young, I was naive. And listened and I trusted them. That was something. I trusted them. And. Matt Laur, I knew in the beginning, look at him. Have you seen him recently?

A.H. - No.

H.H. - He's been on TV since I was young and I used to call him Matt Liar the last 20 years and they just fired him for lying.

A.H. - Yeah.

H.H. - Sexual activities. But the thing of it is, as you know, you go to history and you had to think of it as if you read a book or someone wrote the book or is is the author of a book biased? That's what you have to find out. You know, then the truth of is mostly liberal writers are biased. They won't tell the truth. They'll tell their side. That's true.

A.H. - Well, yeah. This is a book of direct documents. It's not really like the author wrote it. It's like documents from the Vietnam War. Like it has been presented as telegrams, has memorandums. So it's like actual. Documents, it's not like somebody just writing about Vietnam War.

H.H. - Those documents and you just have to go by that again, by the same token, some documents may not be true. Yeah.

A.H. - Do you remember any, like, political cartoons that stood out to you during the Vietnam War? Like you saw?

H.H. - I saw a lot but I don’t remember any

A.H. - There wasn't one that you like vaguely remember.

H.H. - No, I honestly I don’t. I’m getting old Alyssa. I have a good memory

A.H. - Let's see. After your service, were you given the opportunity to have your education, your further education paid for by the G.I. Bill?

H.H. - Yes

A.H. - Did you go to school?

H.H. - No I was an idiot, your dad did though. And there's education costs. David, they paid for it. I think I paid twenty eight hundred dollars of it.

A.H. - That's nothing compared to now.

H.H. - Well. That's a good aspect. Let me tell you here for yourself. You buy a home. No down payment. You get the best, best interest rates. You go to school for your school. Yeah. There's a lot of perks of being a veteran.

A.H. - In your opinion, do you think there's like anything? In particular, or something that we should teach to students today learning about the Vietnam War. What do you think that they should know?

H.H. - Yeah. Well the biggest reason is why are we there. Why are we in any war. And the thing with it is, you know, we have the United Nations, but the United Nations, we contribute. It has forty three nations. But anyway, the thing of it is, as the U.N., we screwed. We pay for 25 percent of it. But the thing about this, or they always fought against us for everything and we pay for it. And the most corrupt, crooked to go organization got within it was created to, you know, stop wars, this stuff like this. But they don't do it. And they're always vote against Israel. They vote against us all the time. But, you know, you should we be in war? Sometimes it's you have to like this. Iran. They have to be taken down. And I can show you some movies now. Let's say they announce death to America and death to Israel. That's why they've gotten nuclear weapons. And they will use them. So what are you going to do? Are you going to let them do it?

A.H. - No

H.H. - I mean, this this is something, right? And this is something that we are going to kill you.. So you can tell this is what the leaders. So we are to ask yourself when you say should we get into a war or not? You have to ask yourself. Afghanistan's been we've been in that thing for 20 years to one of avail. And it has cost us a trillion dollars. You know, do we belong there? And most of that money went to rebuilding the schools in these cities. That they blow up. What the hell are we doing? It's quite easy answer obvious.

A.H. - Let's see. In what ways, if any, did the military conflict going on in Vietnam affect you over here in the States? Like, did they have to? I don't know. And instate certain rules or in terms of like spending or in terms of like trade and

H.H. - Well no. War is expensive. So they only wanted to fix the problem. The only way it affected people here was jobs were plentiful. That's why Mr. Trump has got so much against him, because these people nowadays are for war. Why are they for war? Because companies they make they make guns, make your cash. They make airplanes. So you understand that. Would you be for the war? You don’t care who they are fighting. But if your company is making a million dollars a day then you would be. My time in the 60s, the economy started piling up because businesses were booming. So that's the only way it affected me. Other than just we didn’t belong there and seeing people dying.

A.H. - It was estimated that our country spent one hundred and sixty billion dollars in the entire war, including one hundred and eleven billion on military operations, and then twenty eight point five billion on academic, economic and military aid to Saigon. Do you think that all this money spent really went to its max advantage or potential that it could have been spent elsewhere.

H.H. - You wanna know what could have helped spend it here. Oh no, no, no. It didn't help them one bit.

A.H. - It's crazy. I think I'm I think I'm good. You answered a lot. Which president did you feel during the time, was it? Johnson, Kennedy or Eisenhower or Nixon that really stepped up to the plate and said, hey, let's get this finished? Which president do you think had the most positive effect ?

H.H. - Nixon he ended it. Oh, yeah, I know the French. There was there was a battle that first started the war on. Kennedy wanted to end it.

He pulled out 10000 troops. Then he was assassinated. Then Johnson turned around and escalated 1965. And in three years, 1967, 68, and I got married in 67. That battle's still going on. You'll hear from the leader in a minute. Now. The thing of it is, as it got so nasty and ugly in the news and stuff, it had to do some stuff down here. And Cronkite I'm sure he was like a lot of good things to people. But as he was right about, we didn't belong there. Period. Yeah, I get it. Republicans, Democrats left out. What is right or wrong? Why are we there? we don't belong here. Simple as that. Get the hell out. Why are our children dying?

A.H. - Do you feel like if we weren’t in there, that our country could be different today?

H.H. - No, not our country. I think their country would probably be the same today the war was a waste on both sides to kill so many of our enemies and killed so many Americans. There was no no win there. There were just costs a lot of money and smart people made money off the war. So, you know, now the sad thing of all those numbers you just added up there. All that money, we have bridges falling down, such steps that need repair. And that's the same thing when I bring up to what to do. What did Obama do with that 10 trillion dollars worth of nothing but nothing. You know where did the money go. So, yeah, these are the question. Should you have to ask? No.

You don't lose 10 trillion dollars. You don't lose a trillion dollars, you know? And look at the billions. That all adds up to a trillion dollars. You know, and you could, you know, conceivably have free education, free health care if we spent the money at home.

A.H. - Where do you think our country is giving too much financial aid? Investing our money other places versus here.

H.H. - I think so because the people have to pick up the ball on themselves. Unfortunately, some people like Venezuela was I think it was rated the 8th highest 9th in the world ten years ago and now is at the bottom. It's like number forty seven, all because of God before Chavez took over. He died when the sky was an hour now. So ask yourself, you've got the answer. You've got to ask yourself, how do you go from number eight to number forty seven. So what I meant was that socialism, communism. How would you like to stand in line for four hours just to buy toilet paper?

A.H. - I would be pissed.

H.H. - And you would be pissing your pants too. A that that's the way they live. And its sad we just take for granted what we do. We go to our store and, you know, you look at a loaf of bread, you've got, what, 40 varieties. You're lucky to have over that one. Yeah. You've got your dog with you. Yeah. Cheese in your house, your working out.

A.H. - She's good. I'll send you some pictures of her. Oh, I think that's all for my questions.

Do you have any pictures of you when you were in the Navy?

H.H. - Yeah.

A.H. You could maybe e-mail me.

H.H. Trying to send you some pictures of my brother in uniform.