

1
00:00:00,480 --> 00:00:04,620
We're recording the interview of Eva Lazear.

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00:00:04,620 --> 00:00:10,180
This interview is being conducted by Jennifer Seavey from the Wright State University's Veteran Voices Project.

3
00:00:10,180 --> 00:00:14,480
This interview is being recorded at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio.

4
00:00:14,480 --> 00:00:18,640
It is 2 p.m. on January 27th, 2016.

5
00:00:18,640 --> 00:00:21,940
Okay, so when and where were you born?

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00:00:21,940 --> 00:00:26,420
Melbourne, Australia March 20th, 1950.

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00:00:26,420 --> 00:00:31,080
Who were your parents and what were their occupations?

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00:00:31,080 --> 00:00:37,100
My parents were Hungarian refugees from Europe after the war.

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00:00:37,100 --> 00:00:43,800
Zino Ziklas and Ava Ziklas and they went to Australia as refugees

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00:00:43,800 --> 00:00:49,760
and my mother worked in a dress shop all her life, in retail sales

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00:00:49,760 --> 00:00:57,620
and my dad was a manager of several different stores, starting with grocery stores all the way up through Sears kind of thing.

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00:00:57,620 --> 00:00:58,400
Oh okay.

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00:00:58,400 --> 00:01:01,620
Yes, once we came to the States of course.

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00:01:01,620 --> 00:01:03,860

So how did you guys come to the States?

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00:01:03,860 --> 00:01:17,460

It's kind of a long story. My mother and dad were in Hungary in 1944 as the Russians were coming in.

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00:01:17,460 --> 00:01:27,480

Their families not knowing each other, each left Hungary in that year, just before the Russians moved in

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00:01:27,480 --> 00:01:35,160

and they went to a place called Passau, Germany and there they met at the gymnasium at the high school.

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00:01:35,160 --> 00:01:44,600

My father was 18 years old when he and my mother married, my mother was 19.

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00:01:44,600 --> 00:01:52,420

Well back then in Europe that was a no no, because it was right after the war, my dad was just a young kid

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00:01:52,420 --> 00:02:02,860

and they said he couldn't support a wife and she was older than he was and technically they wanted them to be ten years older than the husband

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00:02:02,860 --> 00:02:05,460

so that they could take care of them, be established and all that.

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00:02:05,460 --> 00:02:11,620

So my dad's family disowned him and because my dad's family disowned him

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00:02:11,620 --> 00:02:17,520

as refugees, he did not want to go where his family was going, his family was going to America.

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00:02:17,520 --> 00:02:26,280

So he told my mother, who by the way at this time when they went to Italy to pick up a refugee boat, was pregnant, but she couldn't tell anybody,

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00:02:26,280 --> 00:02:31,100

because they would have left her. They would not take her on a refugee boat.

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00:02:31,100 --> 00:02:44,120

So she was about oh, almost nine, eight weeks pregnant with me and she didn't tell a soul

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00:02:44,120 --> 00:02:49,540

and my dad said we'll take the first boat that comes to South America,

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00:02:49,540 --> 00:03:01,900

Brazil preferably or Australia. Well as it happened, the Australian boat came first. So they boarded the Civil Aird refugee ship and went to Australia.

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00:03:01,900 --> 00:03:12,420

Well my dad's family decided that after five years when the marriage had broken up, they would look him up and see what they could do for him.

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00:03:12,420 --> 00:03:22,060

Well after five years they sent the American Red Cross to Australia to look for him. My dad fended that off for several years.

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00:03:22,060 --> 00:03:28,600

My uncle kept insisting that he should come to America and that he would pay his way.

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00:03:28,600 --> 00:03:37,760

My uncle's a doctor and so my dad after three years of cajoling and you know, he finally said yes.

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00:03:37,760 --> 00:03:44,380

So by this time he had five kids. Yes, obviously the marriage had not broken up

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00:03:44,380 --> 00:03:53,600

and so in October of 1957 he came alone, my uncle sponsored him and came to America,

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00:03:53,600 --> 00:04:01,920

left my mother in Australia until January and then he sponsored her and the five of us to come to America.

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00:04:01,920 --> 00:04:03,280

Oh okay, wow.

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00:04:03,280 --> 00:04:05,400

Yeah, that's why I said it was a long story.

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00:04:05,400 --> 00:04:06,920

But no, that's fantastic.

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00:04:06,920 --> 00:04:09,120

[laughing]

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00:04:09,120 --> 00:04:12,440
So okay, who are your siblings?

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00:04:12,440 --> 00:04:21,300
I have two brothers and two sisters. The next two under me were twins. Unfortunately one of them has passed on.

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00:04:21,300 --> 00:04:29,000
And then I have a sister, youngest and a younger brother and they both live in Colorado.

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00:04:29,000 --> 00:04:31,300
Okay, has any of them served?

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00:04:31,300 --> 00:04:35,160
My brother who has passed on was in the Marine Corps.

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00:04:35,160 --> 00:04:37,900
My youngest brother was in the Coast Guard.

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00:04:37,900 --> 00:04:38,400
Yeah, okay.

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00:04:38,400 --> 00:04:43,000
So yeah we all three of us served. My two sisters did not.

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00:04:43,000 --> 00:04:47,920
Okay, so what were you doing before you entered the service?

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00:04:47,920 --> 00:04:55,340
I was a high school student and I just.. I graduated in the top 5% of my class,

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00:04:55,340 --> 00:05:09,660
went to five different high schools and because I did not become a citizen when my parents became citizens I couldn't get a scholarship. I was not a citizen.

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00:05:09,660 --> 00:05:16,920
So I got accepted and was going to go to UCSB: University of California at Santa Barbara.

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00:05:16,920 --> 00:05:27,800
Got accepted, everything was fine until I got a notice from them that said that I would have to live on housing off-campus

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00:05:27,800 --> 00:05:43,060

and they wanted to know how much my parents could afford to help pay for that and I asked my mom and unfortunately my mom said ten dollars a month was all that she could afford

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00:05:43,060 --> 00:05:51,000

and I knew right then and there that my chances of going to UCSB were now going to be nothing.

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00:05:51,000 --> 00:05:58,720

So the same day that I got that letter, my father had signed up my brother into the Marine Corps.

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00:05:58,720 --> 00:06:08,040

He was not a graduate, but he wanted to join the Marines and my dad signed him and he was 17 years old, I was 18.

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00:06:08,040 --> 00:06:15,680

I had already graduated and he still had a year to go, but he opted to go into the Marine Corps anyway.

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00:06:15,680 --> 00:06:28,260

So my father called home and he wanted some information. He wanted to know whether I remembered the first address when we first came in.

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00:06:28,260 --> 00:06:34,140

Now this was in 1968 and we came here in 1958, so ten years.

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00:06:34,140 --> 00:06:45,880

Well I remembered. I don't know why, but I'm good with numbers. So I remembered the address being 5424 Tamarin Street and I gave him that information.

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00:06:45,880 --> 00:06:52,720

When he came home he said "the recruiter asked about you"

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00:06:52,720 --> 00:07:03,760

and I laughed and I said "well he can ask all he wants". I at that time was dating a Navy guy and my dad said he wanted to know if you were interested in going in

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00:07:03,760 --> 00:07:11,760

and I said "no, my boyfriend would kill me for one thing and the Marine Corps, I don't think so".

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00:07:11,760 --> 00:07:24,340

He said "but they said they would pay for your college" and that's just what got me. When he said they would pay for my college I went "really,

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00:07:24,340 --> 00:07:36,360

maybe I should look into this". So I went down and I took the ASVAB test, but I was basically just graduated from high school, working little odd jobs. I think I was working a drive-in theater or something, you know.

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00:07:36,360 --> 00:07:45,020

Prior to that I worked as BBQ Bill's in Palmdale, California as a hostess. Little miss smiley they called me, because I smiled all the time,

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00:07:45,020 --> 00:07:52,900

but I wasn't doing anything and my hopes were set on going to college. So that's why I joined.

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00:07:52,900 --> 00:07:55,540

What did you want to do when you went to school?

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00:07:55,540 --> 00:08:01,400

When I was in school I wanted to be a lawyer. Okay, obviously that did not work out,

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00:08:01,400 --> 00:08:04,700

but yeah that's what I wanted to be, I wanted to be a lawyer.

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00:08:04,700 --> 00:08:09,920

Okay, so you served in the Marines then.

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00:08:09,920 --> 00:08:10,520

Yes.

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00:08:10,520 --> 00:08:13,060

Were you active duty or is...

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00:08:13,060 --> 00:08:13,560

Active duty.

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00:08:13,560 --> 00:08:14,500

Okay.

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00:08:14,500 --> 00:08:24,840

Yeah I was active duty, I went in and saw the recruiter, took the ASVAB test and he got really excited and said "that's the highest score I've seen anybody take on it"

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00:08:24,840 --> 00:08:33,440

and he said "do you want to go into the Marine Corps?" and I said "I need to check some other services". Well I went to

the Air Force

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00:08:33,440 --> 00:08:45,920

and the Air Force was... in order to get into the Air Force you had to have a picture taken and I was a little bit skeptical, because I thought if you have to base your

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00:08:45,920 --> 00:08:54,240

whether you get accepted or not on your picture, I probably wouldn't make it and I thought that was unfair.

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00:08:54,240 --> 00:09:00,920

So I decided to back to the Marine Corps. I didn't want Army and I didn't want Navy. I knew that because I get sea sick.

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00:09:00,920 --> 00:09:08,400

So I went back to the Marine Corps and the rest is history. Active duty.

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00:09:08,400 --> 00:09:10,520

So did you enlist or..?

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00:09:10,520 --> 00:09:11,060

I enlisted.

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00:09:11,060 --> 00:09:11,640

Okay.

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00:09:11,640 --> 00:09:19,700

Yeah back then they didn't have... women were not enlisted like the guys. You know, they weren't drafted. There was no draft for women.

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00:09:19,700 --> 00:09:25,980

Okay, so what was basic training like for you?

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00:09:25,980 --> 00:09:40,460

[laughs] Difficult, difficult not that it was too strenuous, because I came from a family where my father was a dictator, basically.

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00:09:40,460 --> 00:09:48,340

You know, European, just ruled the house with an iron fist and basically never told you that he loved you.

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00:09:48,340 --> 00:09:53,780

You know, it was always the bad things that you did that your remembered. So that part wasn't bad.

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00:09:53,780 --> 00:10:02,220

But I do remember a time when I completely forgot my -- my native language by the way is Hungarian ---

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00:10:02,220 --> 00:10:03,160

Okay.

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00:10:03,160 --> 00:10:15,060

and since then I've lost a lot of it, although I've picked up a lot, but back when I was in there was an incident while I was in basic training

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00:10:15,060 --> 00:10:23,820

when a sergeant came down to see me. I was in forth week of boot camp and we were taking a battery of tests.

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00:10:23,820 --> 00:10:33,920

He came up to me and he said "when you get done here" he said "I want you to come through this door, go across to the next building, pound on the hatch until someone answers,

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00:10:33,920 --> 00:10:41,460

tell them that you need to get into the interview line, and then a soon as you get to the head of the line; once you're at the head of the line

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00:10:41,460 --> 00:10:51,700

then I'll come looking for you". So I finished my test, did as I was told, went across and knocked on the door.

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00:10:51,700 --> 00:11:01,640

No one answered so I knocked again. I didn't pound, I didn't do anything like that. However, my drill instructor answered the door.

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00:11:01,640 --> 00:11:13,060

She did not appreciate the fact that I had knocked twice and so she yelled at me and she said "what platoon are you in private?"

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00:11:13,060 --> 00:11:18,620

And I said --- back then you sounded off --- "platoon 10-A ma'm"

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00:11:18,620 --> 00:11:23,020

and she screamed at me and she said "platoon 10-A, my platoon".

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00:11:23,020 --> 00:11:28,820

She said "I'll see you in my office private". Okay.

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00:11:28,820 --> 00:11:39,420

I was supposed to be taking a Hungarian test. So I went in and she said "get to the end of the line".

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00:11:39,420 --> 00:11:47,540

Well then I had a decision to make. The other sergeant had told me to get to the beginning of the line, she told me to get to the end of the line. She was there,

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00:11:47,540 --> 00:11:51,840

she had already yelled at me, so I did what she told me. I got to the end of the line.

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00:11:51,840 --> 00:12:00,520

In the mean time the sergeant came down. He said "where's my little Hungarian private?" and he's looking and he looks at the end of the line and he screams "at the end of the line,

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00:12:00,520 --> 00:12:04,840

I told you to get to the beginning of the line".

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00:12:04,840 --> 00:12:17,100

Sergent Westphal, my DI looked at me and she said "recruit, now I have two things against you. I will see you when we get back"

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00:12:17,100 --> 00:12:23,820

and the look in her eye, I just knew I was dead. You know, I was going to get kicked out or something, you know.

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00:12:23,820 --> 00:12:33,680

So I went to the end of the line, went upstairs with the sergeant crying. Although I never would've let my DI know I was crying.

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00:12:33,680 --> 00:12:45,420

Forgot every single word in Hungarian. I was so frightened of what was going to happen to me. I thought I was going to get kicked out and there would go my college, there would go everything.

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00:12:45,420 --> 00:12:57,300

So I forgot everything and they must've thought I was stupid, because as I'm listening to words all I could think of is what was happening. I wasn't hearing anything.

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00:12:57,300 --> 00:13:02,160

The sergeant was very nice to me, but anyway.

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00:13:02,160 --> 00:13:08,920

So then that's not the end of the story, because when I got back, back to the platoon

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00:13:08,920 --> 00:13:14,340

I got over the intercom "I want to see recruit Ziklas in my office right this minute".

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00:13:14,340 --> 00:13:22,380

And of course all the girls in platoon just put their arms around me "you'll be okay, you'll be okay" "oh I'm going to be thrown out" blah, blah blah.

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00:13:22,380 --> 00:13:30,880

So I went, I did all my moves the way I was supposed to. We were taught to walk a certain way, click our heels, and stand at attention.

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00:13:30,880 --> 00:13:39,840

My DI's right where you are right now and there's another DI over here reprimanding another recruit. Her name was sergeant Diaz.

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00:13:39,840 --> 00:13:50,260

Sergeant Diaz, I heard her say to her recruit "you see that recruit?" she said "she did all her moves right and she's only been here four weeks and you've been here eight weeks and you don't even know how to do them yet".

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00:13:50,260 --> 00:13:55,500

My DI said "and this is one of my worst ones".

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00:13:55,500 --> 00:13:57,120

[laughing]

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00:13:57,120 --> 00:14:05,920

So that just put the fear of God in me even more.

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00:14:05,920 --> 00:14:12,360

I'll bet her table wasn't as wide as this one was, maybe half the size.

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00:14:12,360 --> 00:14:20,260

She pulled out from her drawer a mirror, she came around the table, stuck it right in front of my face. She said "look at that face".

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00:14:20,260 --> 00:14:30,820

She said "it's ugly", she said "the only reason you pounded on that hatch twice so that the whole Marine Corps could jump up, is because you want a man and you're going to be out of here in six months.

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00:14:30,820 --> 00:14:41,740

I can tell you that right now, because you're that kind of girl" and she says "and if you look at that ugly face, nobody's going to want you anyway".

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00:14:41,740 --> 00:14:51,460

I stared straight ahead, didn't blink a tear, didn't do anything, because the last thing I wanted was her to know that this upset me.

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00:14:51,460 --> 00:14:58,280

She was just trying to break me, I think and had I cried I might have been out, but I didn't cry, didn't do anything.

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00:14:58,280 --> 00:15:03,180

And she said "you're going to be out of my Corps within six months I can tell, pregnant".

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00:15:03,180 --> 00:15:11,700

Well that's not why I came in. Although, I can say at that time that's what a lot of girls went in for you know, to get a guy.

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00:15:11,700 --> 00:15:17,380

But I was in for a college education and I was not going to let anyone disrupt that.

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00:15:17,380 --> 00:15:23,760

So anyway, after she was done with that she says "get out of here, I don't even want to see that ugly face anymore".

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00:15:23,760 --> 00:15:32,300

So I did my moves and went out into the hall and suddenly the tears just poured from me, poured

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00:15:32,300 --> 00:15:37,820

and I walked back to barracks and all the girls are "what happened, what happened, what happened?"

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00:15:37,820 --> 00:15:42,280

"She said I was ugly and I was..." just it was awful.

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00:15:42,280 --> 00:15:53,620

But I remember that, because I think it's the first time in my life that I've took something from someone that I knew wasn't true

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00:15:53,620 --> 00:16:00,840

and yet I was not going to let her break me. I was not going to let anybody break me

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00:16:00,840 --> 00:16:09,380

and when I first went into the Corps I had dark hair, it was streaked blonde right over the top.

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00:16:09,380 --> 00:16:16,840

So anytime sergeant Westphal looked down her line of recruits and saw that blonde streaking on brown hair,

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00:16:16,840 --> 00:16:26,420

she just knew that recruit Ziklas had something to do with whatever she was screaming at

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00:16:26,420 --> 00:16:34,320

and so I got screamed at a lot because of that. I know it's only because of my hair, because I was scared of my dad

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00:16:34,320 --> 00:16:40,980

so I was scared of my DI, scared of everybody. So that part, that was the worst part.

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00:16:40,980 --> 00:16:49,560

I mean we got cussed at, we got called names by the male DIs and everything. The hardest part for me was running.

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00:16:49,560 --> 00:16:58,200

I almost didn't make it, but the girls, the camaraderie in our platoon, they just kept running beside me going "you can do this, you can do this, you can do this".

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00:16:58,200 --> 00:17:06,200

You know and I made it through. So it was just everybody around, you know,

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00:17:06,200 --> 00:17:13,740

helping us do what we need to do. "you can do this, you can do this" you know and the fact that I wanted the college education.

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00:17:13,740 --> 00:17:22,260

That's really why I was there and I just couldn't see myself being thrown out of the Corps ashamed, you know that I had

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00:17:22,260 --> 00:17:28,040

not lived up to any expectations. [inaudible] I was a straight A student and I just...

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00:17:28,040 --> 00:17:37,960

So that's just the hardest part. I was used to all the harrying you, the name calling and all that, because my dad did that all the time.

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00:17:37,960 --> 00:17:45,380

You know, so it wasn't anything that I couldn't handle. So that's it. [laughing]

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00:17:45,380 --> 00:17:47,580

Wow. [laughing]

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00:17:47,580 --> 00:18:02,940

So do you feel that you had by the end of basic training or boot camp, that you had learned a lot from drill sergeants?

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00:18:02,940 --> 00:18:13,840

Oh my gosh, I can tell you that the one thing that I wanted more than anything was for Staff Sergeant Westphal, my DI not Sergeant Aspen who was the assistant,

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00:18:13,840 --> 00:18:22,360

my DI to put those emblems on my uniform. I was so, so proud to become a Marine

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00:18:22,360 --> 00:18:28,120

and to have gone through all that and made it. You know so, oh yeah I learned a lot.

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00:18:28,120 --> 00:18:37,180

I learned that I was stronger than I thought I was and I was and throughout the rest of my life I think I kept that.

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00:18:37,180 --> 00:18:38,560

That's good.

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00:18:38,560 --> 00:18:41,040

To an extent.

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00:18:41,040 --> 00:18:44,160

Okay, so what was your military occupation?

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00:18:44,160 --> 00:18:46,040

I was payroll clerk, dispersing.

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00:18:46,040 --> 00:18:46,600

Okay.

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00:18:46,600 --> 00:18:59,280

Yeah, 34-21 and I graduated top of my class. There was four girls. All the other girls, three other girls graduated somewhere between the middle and the end.

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00:18:59,280 --> 00:19:06,560

There were about twenty-six guys and thirty in our class and I was consistently first.

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00:19:06,560 --> 00:19:15,900

There was a young man who was consistently second and he tried his best to beat me and I wasn't trying, it wasn't hard.

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00:19:15,900 --> 00:19:23,400

I don't like math. I don't know why I can remember numbers, but I just don't like math. So I don't know why I even got

put into that,

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00:19:23,400 --> 00:19:28,360

except that I couldn't remember Hungarian anymore. [laughing] Anyway.

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00:19:28,360 --> 00:19:34,720

At any rate, I graduated top of my class and I had a friend, his name was Johnny,

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00:19:34,720 --> 00:19:45,280

he was short like I was and he had a girlfriend back home, and he and I kind of palled around even though we weren't supposed to... we weren't dating, we were just kind of palling around

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00:19:45,280 --> 00:19:54,400

and when I came in to take the final test he said "if you got any sleep at all you're going to beat this guy so don't even worry about it"

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00:19:54,400 --> 00:20:02,940

and I hadn't even studied. Well this young man had stayed up all night and he ended up third in the class.

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00:20:02,940 --> 00:20:09,540

He'd always been second and because he stayed up all night he couldn't take the test. He ended up third.

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00:20:09,540 --> 00:20:22,120

First two got a meritorious promotion and got to choose, I think the first five got to choose where they wanted to go for their duty station unless you were a woman.

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00:20:22,120 --> 00:20:23,460

Really?

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00:20:23,460 --> 00:20:28,980

Women were not allowed to choose. They guys were allowed to choose, but the girls were not.

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00:20:28,980 --> 00:20:38,240

But I did get my meritorious promotion. So four months I was in E3 already,

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00:20:38,240 --> 00:20:46,180

which was totally amazing and I'd only been E2 for one month, so.

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00:20:46,180 --> 00:20:47,280

That's amazing.

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00:20:47,280 --> 00:20:56,340

Yeah and Lieutenants Steele I'll never forget, he said "there's only one other girl that has ever come out on top in her class in the history of the Corps

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00:20:56,340 --> 00:21:01,000

and she's a lieutenant now. So I want to see you as a lieutenant".

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00:21:01,000 --> 00:21:07,700

Well what he didn't tell is that you have to be a citizen to do that. Yeah and since I wasn't a citizen --

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00:21:07,700 --> 00:21:15,620

and by the way, I'm still not -- because I wasn't a citizen I would never been able to go to OCS,

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00:21:15,620 --> 00:21:19,880

but that's okay, because I wanted my college, that was all that mattered to me.

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00:21:19,880 --> 00:21:26,360

Sure, sure okay, so where was your first duty station?

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00:21:26,360 --> 00:21:28,500

My first duty station Quantico, Virginia

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00:21:28,500 --> 00:21:29,440

Oh, okay.

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00:21:29,440 --> 00:21:34,820

Okay first thing that was asked: what was your rank and class?

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00:21:34,820 --> 00:21:41,360

My girlfriend's rank was like 28 [laughing] and my rank was first.

187

00:21:41,360 --> 00:21:47,920

The two of us went to Quantico and because I was first I didn't have KP duty, but she had KP duty.

188

00:21:47,920 --> 00:21:53,260

So I skated through KP, never had KP, never just because...

189

00:21:53,260 --> 00:21:54,920

Now what is that?

190

00:21:54,920 --> 00:21:56,920

KP, peeling potatoes in the kitchen.

191

00:21:56,920 --> 00:21:57,420

Okay

192

00:21:57,420 --> 00:21:58,920

[laughing]

193

00:21:58,920 --> 00:22:03,000

Kitchen patrol, [laughing] I never had kitchen patrol.

194

00:22:03,000 --> 00:22:10,960

So first duty station was Quantico, but the thing about Quantico was that I did not like it.

195

00:22:10,960 --> 00:22:23,120

Unfortunately there were at that time... and now in retrospect I think about it, I guess it's a different world, but

196

00:22:23,120 --> 00:22:35,820

back then I was not interested in becoming a lesbian and there were a lot of women there that were caught fooling around with each other during the night watch

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00:22:35,820 --> 00:22:43,000

and I absolutely hated it, I hated it. I almost went AWOL, because I hated it that much.

198

00:22:43,000 --> 00:22:47,920

I volunteered for Vietnam and was turned down.

199

00:22:47,920 --> 00:22:48,660

Why?

200

00:22:48,660 --> 00:22:54,920

Because they said no women were allowed unless you were a nurse or in the Navy and the Marine Corps didn't have nurses.

201

00:22:54,920 --> 00:23:05,300

So no women were allowed. However, because I volunteered for Vietnam they waived my yearly requirement to be stateside before I could go overseas.

202

00:23:05,300 --> 00:23:16,420

There was another young lady who had been given an assignment to Okinawa, which was the stopping off place for those going to and from Vietnam

203

00:23:16,420 --> 00:23:26,880

and she was married, she didn't want to leave her husband. So she turned down the orders and they came to me after nine months, asked me if I wanted to take those orders?

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00:23:26,880 --> 00:23:37,960

Had it not been for that, I might have been back in Australia, because I called my dad just before I got those orders and I said "I'm going AWOL,

205

00:23:37,960 --> 00:23:48,600

I cannot stand this, I can't deal with these girls", you know and my dad said "go to Australia, they can't touch you", because I was a citizen.

206

00:23:48,600 --> 00:23:58,900

Yeah so if I hadn't gotten those orders who knows where I might be, I might be back in Australia and not have the family I have, not have the college education.

207

00:23:58,900 --> 00:24:04,700

Who knows? You know, so little things just kind of worked their way in and I got orders for Okinawa.

208

00:24:04,700 --> 00:24:14,820

So I went home for two weeks and got sent over to Okinawa, which was not part of Japan at the time.

209

00:24:14,820 --> 00:24:16,980

To Camp Smedley D. Butler.

210

00:24:16,980 --> 00:24:20,240

Okay, so what were your duties over there?

211

00:24:20,240 --> 00:24:22,080

Same thing, payroll clerk.

212

00:24:22,080 --> 00:24:22,580

Okay.

213

00:24:22,580 --> 00:24:31,860

That's where I picked up my E4 after nine months of being meritorious lance corporal I picked up E4, angered.

214

00:24:31,860 --> 00:24:39,220

One of the girls who had been an E3 for three years, because she just kept getting passed up

215

00:24:39,220 --> 00:24:47,480

and I picked up E4 in nine months and she just thought that was... well nine months after lance corporal

216

00:24:47,480 --> 00:24:55,600

and she just thought that I was the worst person in the world. I took away her stripes. Yeah but that's...

217

00:24:55,600 --> 00:25:04,320

But I picked up rank easy. I don't know why, because then, ten months later I was an E5, so.

218

00:25:04,320 --> 00:25:07,820

So what was your typical day look like?

219

00:25:07,820 --> 00:25:14,940

Typical day, Marines coming in and asking about their payroll and I just would use my adding machine.

220

00:25:14,940 --> 00:25:22,620

We didn't have calculators or computers or anything. I used my adding machine you know and then

221

00:25:22,620 --> 00:25:28,660

take their pay record to the officer of the day, whoever that was, probably Major McGauldy

222

00:25:28,660 --> 00:25:33,640

and then he would sign-off on it and then we'd give them the money.

223

00:25:33,640 --> 00:25:44,800

sometimes we would holster up. So we would take guns and we'd have to distribute cash to some of the people out at different posts.

224

00:25:44,800 --> 00:25:52,040

So but I would wake up in the morning and I lives in Camp Courtney.

225

00:25:52,040 --> 00:26:01,980

Camp Smedley D. Butler had several little camps: Courtney, Mctureous, and honestly I don't know the others, because those were the two that I was concerned with.

226

00:26:01,980 --> 00:26:10,440

I lived on Courtney, but I worked in Mctureous. So I would take a taxi cab to Camp Mctureous and work there.

227

00:26:10,440 --> 00:26:14,520

That's where I met the man who I would later marry.

228

00:26:14,520 --> 00:26:15,020

Oh okay.

229

00:26:15,020 --> 00:26:17,580

Yeah he worked next door, he was an electrician

230

00:26:17,580 --> 00:26:22,900

Okay, so while you were over there did you witness any combat?

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00:26:22,900 --> 00:26:23,400

No.

232

00:26:23,400 --> 00:26:24,140

No?

233

00:26:24,140 --> 00:26:28,740

No, I just witnessed soldiers coming back from combat.

234

00:26:28,740 --> 00:26:35,220

I had a very good friend who was in the Navy who lost his best friend in Vietnam and

235

00:26:35,220 --> 00:26:44,340

on his way back we got together. We were from the same town and he was my best friend back home. So I got to see him, but

236

00:26:44,340 --> 00:26:45,940

no, no combat at all.

237

00:26:45,940 --> 00:26:46,740

Okay.

238

00:26:46,740 --> 00:26:52,660

B-52s were taking off, but of course they were telling the American public they weren't. You know,

239

00:26:52,660 --> 00:26:59,140

the American public didn't know what was really happening during Vietnam except for what reporters were telling them

240

00:26:59,140 --> 00:27:00,760

and sometimes that was slanted.

241

00:27:00,760 --> 00:27:02,240

Sure, yeah.

242

00:27:02,240 --> 00:27:06,640

And then I was there when 3rd Marine Division came back from Vietnam, the whole division.

243

00:27:06,640 --> 00:27:10,100

Okay, that's good.

244

00:27:10,100 --> 00:27:18,600

No combat. Women at that time were not... it's just recently that women

245

00:27:18,600 --> 00:27:22,400

Were very many women where you were at over there?

246

00:27:22,400 --> 00:27:31,000

There was a fleet of women, I believe at the Air Force base and I don't know how many were there that were woman Marines.

247

00:27:31,000 --> 00:27:36,900

We had about thirty where I was stationed, about thirty-one.

248

00:27:36,900 --> 00:27:38,000

Well at least...

249

00:27:38,000 --> 00:27:38,500

Yeah.

250

00:27:38,500 --> 00:27:39,140

...had a handful there.

251

00:27:39,140 --> 00:27:43,940

To about ten thousand men. [laughing]

252

00:27:43,940 --> 00:27:45,340

Oh, well. [laughing]

253

00:27:45,340 --> 00:27:50,860

The odds were good. [laughing] Better for the girls than the guys.

254

00:27:50,860 --> 00:27:56,020

That's true. [laughing] So you spoke about the camaraderie?

255

00:27:56,020 --> 00:27:57,020

Yes.

256

00:27:57,020 --> 00:27:59,400

Do you still keep in contact with anyone?

257

00:27:59,400 --> 00:28:06,940

No unfortunately, no because after I got married and I got pregnant, I got booted out, so.

258

00:28:06,940 --> 00:28:07,440

Really?

259

00:28:07,440 --> 00:28:12,600

No, yeah, because back then you couldn't stay in the Corps if you were pregnant.

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00:28:12,600 --> 00:28:15,920

So that ended my career.

261

00:28:15,920 --> 00:28:19,500

Sure.

262

00:28:19,500 --> 00:28:26,380

I do however, still consider myself a Marine and I have joined the Marine Corps League

263

00:28:26,380 --> 00:28:30,880

and I associate with those in Springfield who are also Marines

264

00:28:30,880 --> 00:28:37,340

and I know quite a few women Marines who served. In fact, my daughter-in-law's a woman Marine.

265

00:28:37,340 --> 00:28:47,340

She was in the Corps and then I do a lot of volunteer work and one of the head of the volunteers was a woman Marine as well.

266

00:28:47,340 --> 00:28:56,520

So I keep in touch that way, but other than that I don't keep in touch with any of the comrades that I went to school with.

267

00:28:56,520 --> 00:29:02,760

Okay, so while you were overseas what did you do for recreation?

268

00:29:02,760 --> 00:29:11,640

Mostly just going to the club. There wasn't much to do in Okinawa. Sometimes I might go down to...

269

00:29:11,640 --> 00:29:16,420

Once I got married I went sightseeing a lot, because my husband would take me.

270

00:29:16,420 --> 00:29:22,180

But before that, there wasn't a whole lot to do. We might go down into the town,

271

00:29:22,180 --> 00:29:29,020

but even there, most of the bars I was told nice girls didn't go into.

272

00:29:29,020 --> 00:29:37,520

So you know, never went into anything like that. Most of the time just to the local on-base clubs, Smedley D. Butler

273

00:29:37,520 --> 00:29:38,020

Okay.

274

00:29:38,020 --> 00:29:38,720

NCO club.

275

00:29:38,720 --> 00:29:43,940

Okay, so how did you stay in touch with family and friends back home?

276

00:29:43,940 --> 00:29:47,120

Phone calls and writing, phone calls mostly.

277

00:29:47,120 --> 00:29:50,300

How long did it take letters though, when you wrote?

278

00:29:50,300 --> 00:30:02,220

I'm not sure. I know I wrote my dad a letter when I wanted to get married, because I was only 20 years old

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00:30:02,220 --> 00:30:11,140

and I had to write him a letter to get permission to get married, because of Japanese law.

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00:30:11,140 --> 00:30:21,920

So I would say it would take you know, two weeks to get a reply or maybe almost three weeks to get a reply.

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00:30:21,920 --> 00:30:25,700

Most of the time I called. You know, I would call and talk.

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00:30:25,700 --> 00:30:34,260

That's good. So how long did you serve in Okinawa?

283

00:30:34,260 --> 00:30:48,540

Let's see, I got there in May of 1969 or April of 1969 and left in June 1970. So it was....

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00:30:48,540 --> 00:30:56,080

Maybe I got there in July. I spent eleven months, eleven months, a little over eleven months overseas,

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00:30:56,080 --> 00:31:03,180

because when I got married, I got married in Japan and then had church wedding in Okinawa

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00:31:03,180 --> 00:31:07,640

and once I got married and got pregnant my time was over.

287

00:31:07,640 --> 00:31:10,500

Okay, so did you come back to the States after that?

288

00:31:10,500 --> 00:31:11,000

Yeah.

289

00:31:11,000 --> 00:31:11,520

Okay.

290

00:31:11,520 --> 00:31:15,000

Yeah came in, got discharged at Camp Pendleton.

291

00:31:15,000 --> 00:31:17,400

Did you fly or was it by ship?

292

00:31:17,400 --> 00:31:20,860

Flew, I flew everywhere. I flew to Okinawa, I flew back.

293

00:31:20,860 --> 00:31:22,240

Didn't you say you get seasick?

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00:31:22,240 --> 00:31:23,720

What? I get seasick, yes.

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00:31:23,720 --> 00:31:24,420

Okay. [laughing]

296

00:31:24,420 --> 00:31:30,020

Yeah, but that's not why. That's just the way it was. They give you orders, they pay for your flight.

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00:31:30,020 --> 00:31:31,340

Okay, okay.

298

00:31:31,340 --> 00:31:41,400

I know, I remember coming back from Okinawa being sick the entire trip on the flight and they quarantined everyone on the flight,

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00:31:41,400 --> 00:31:53,300

World Health Organization. I went straight to the bathroom throwing up and a World Health Organization person said "well, we quarantined everybody until we find out what's the matter with you",

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00:31:53,300 --> 00:32:02,720

because I was sick on the plane, I couldn't eat, couldn't do anything and I said "I'm pregnant".

301

00:32:02,720 --> 00:32:08,500

He started laughing and then he walks out and he yells "it's okay, nobody can catch it.

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00:32:08,500 --> 00:32:11,460

[laughing]

303

00:32:11,460 --> 00:32:13,060

So yeah.

304

00:32:13,060 --> 00:32:14,400

That was good.

305

00:32:14,400 --> 00:32:18,620

So it's kind of a funny story, but I wasn't able to eat for three days after that trip.

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00:32:18,620 --> 00:32:21,800

Everything came up, water, everything, yeah. It was awful.

307

00:32:21,800 --> 00:32:22,420

I'm sure.

308

00:32:22,420 --> 00:32:25,640

But anyway, had to stay in my room. [laughing]

309

00:32:25,640 --> 00:32:31,120

So when you came home how were you received by your family and the community?

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00:32:31,120 --> 00:32:38,740

Oh well my family was very proud of the fact that I was in the Corps. I had an uncle who was in intelligence during the Korean War in the Marine Corps

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00:32:38,740 --> 00:32:45,040

and he was the proudest of me. Well he wasn't really my uncle, he was my dad's cousin, he was my second cousin.

312

00:32:45,040 --> 00:32:45,540

Okay.

313

00:32:45,540 --> 00:32:51,820

And he was the most proud out of everybody, because he had been a Marine himself, you know

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00:32:51,820 --> 00:32:57,940

and had hoped that I'd gone into it intelligence like he did, but of course I couldn't remember any Hungarian

315

00:32:57,940 --> 00:33:01,140

[laughing] after my little episode.

316

00:33:01,140 --> 00:33:07,980

Right. Surprised they didn't let you try and retake it though. Isn't there a way for that?

317

00:33:07,980 --> 00:33:15,640

I don't know, I don't know, I probably should have, but 18 years old, you know you're

318

00:33:15,640 --> 00:33:24,460

listening to her tell you that you're going to pregnant in six months and out and how ugly you are and nobody wants you anyway and then you know

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00:33:24,460 --> 00:33:29,620

and you're just going just get me through this, get me out of here.

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00:33:29,620 --> 00:33:36,760

Funny part is my DI became my best friend. She was stationed in Okinawa.

321

00:33:36,760 --> 00:33:48,240

She didn't remember me of course, because she went through lots of recruits, but she knew my husband and when I left to come home she said she'd help take care of him. You know, make sure that he was

322

00:33:48,240 --> 00:33:54,380

okay and you know that kind of thing. So we re-met in Okinawa.

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00:33:54,380 --> 00:33:54,940

Wow.

324

00:33:54,940 --> 00:34:01,520

And she was an adorable person. Sergeant Westphal, she was wonderful, you know.

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00:34:01,520 --> 00:34:11,300

But, she was horrible as a DI not horrible, but you know what I mean, it was just scary. She was skinny, tall, lanky,

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00:34:11,300 --> 00:34:16,060

and you just knew she could just break you, you know. [laughing]

327

00:34:16,060 --> 00:34:16,780

That's funny.

328

00:34:16,780 --> 00:34:17,320

She was a nice person.

329

00:34:17,320 --> 00:34:18,760

That's funny, yeah.

330

00:34:18,760 --> 00:34:20,420

Well it's good that you got to meet her.

331

00:34:20,420 --> 00:34:20,920

Yes.

332

00:34:20,920 --> 00:34:21,420

In a different setting.

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00:34:21,420 --> 00:34:24,580

Right, right absolutely.

334

00:34:24,580 --> 00:34:28,780

But were you received by the community?

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00:34:28,780 --> 00:34:36,920

Nobody really said much of anything. Nobody even mentioned it. I know it'd been in the papers that I returned,

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00:34:36,920 --> 00:34:45,900

but you've got to remember that I left from California. My parents had, when I got out, had come to Colorado.

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00:34:45,900 --> 00:34:46,400

Okay.

338

00:34:46,400 --> 00:34:52,920

Okay, so this was a neighborhood I didn't even know. So nobody knew who I was anyway, you know

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00:34:52,920 --> 00:34:59,100

and back then I didn't really talk about being in the Marine Corps,

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00:34:59,100 --> 00:35:06,640

because people were not very receptive to anybody who had been in the military service back then.

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00:35:06,640 --> 00:35:12,420

So it was kind of let's not mention it to anybody, you know,

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00:35:12,420 --> 00:35:20,180

because I didn't want to be hated and called a baby killer, because I was over in Okinawa.

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00:35:20,180 --> 00:35:27,640

Of course nothing like that ever happened, but the point being we kind of just left it hush hush.

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00:35:27,640 --> 00:35:37,520

That's understandable. So how did you readjust to civilian life?

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00:35:37,520 --> 00:35:46,000

Well I don't know that there was much readjusting, because by that time I was pregnant and I was adjusting to pregnancy life. [laughing]

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00:35:46,000 --> 00:35:54,320

You know and then having the baby and readjusting wasn't an issue.

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00:35:54,320 --> 00:35:54,820

Okay.

348

00:35:54,820 --> 00:36:00,040

Yeah because like I said I was back with my parents and my dad had a strong hand anyway.

349

00:36:00,040 --> 00:36:07,360

So yeah, I was okay and then when my husband came home and we moved back to California.

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00:36:07,360 --> 00:36:11,700

Okay, so what did you guys do when you were in California?

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00:36:11,700 --> 00:36:20,740

I was... when he came back I was like eight months, seven - eight months pregnant and we lived in Glendale

352

00:36:20,740 --> 00:36:28,660

and he worked the television studios,

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00:36:28,660 --> 00:36:34,780

KTLA Channel 5 where he would make sets. He was a carpenter, makes... an electrician and things like that

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00:36:34,780 --> 00:36:45,860

and he made sets for them, but it was union work and we were just beginning that quota system where you had to have so many blacks, so many Hispanics, so many whites

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00:36:45,860 --> 00:36:57,460

and there were often times where he wouldn't get called, because they didn't have their quota, they had to find a black person or a Hispanic or Asian or somebody. You know,

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00:36:57,460 --> 00:37:08,980

so he decided to go back in. So we were out of the Corps... I would say within six months he was back in.

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00:37:08,980 --> 00:37:10,980

he just, he wanted back in.

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00:37:10,980 --> 00:37:11,660

Okay.

359

00:37:11,660 --> 00:37:16,800

So then I became a military wife and that was easy because I was used to the military, so.

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00:37:16,800 --> 00:37:17,840

And you already knew what to expect.

361

00:37:17,840 --> 00:37:18,340

Yeah.

362

00:37:18,340 --> 00:37:28,200

Unfortunately, the first man I married was a wife beater and he wanted to go to DI school

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00:37:28,200 --> 00:37:35,520

and I said if he did, I would leave him, because they weren't allowed to hit recruits

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00:37:35,520 --> 00:37:41,840

and I knew that if he came home angry and frustrated, that he'd take it out on me and so

365

00:37:41,840 --> 00:37:47,340

I said you do that and I'll leave. So he became a recruiter instead.

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00:37:47,340 --> 00:37:56,240

He went back to Okinawa for a full year and that's when I decided that I didn't want to go back to an abusive marriage

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00:37:56,240 --> 00:38:00,820

and ended up telling him that when he came back I wanted a divorce.

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00:38:00,820 --> 00:38:08,540

Of course he called me from Okinawa and said I had another man and that's why I was doing this and blah, blah, blah.

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00:38:08,540 --> 00:38:19,220

So when he came back six months later, I left. He told me he would change, he didn't, I left, so.

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00:38:19,220 --> 00:38:21,420

So what did you do after that?

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00:38:21,420 --> 00:38:28,200

Came back from Washington D.C. where we were stationed, was headed to Colorado where my sister lived

372

00:38:28,200 --> 00:38:33,240

and she had told me that I could have the whole basement area, me and the kids.

373

00:38:33,240 --> 00:38:38,560

Stopped in Springfield where we had lived for a while, because he was stationed at Wright-Patt

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00:38:38,560 --> 00:38:49,900

and a girlfriend said "just come and stay with me you know, especially if your still thinking that there's a chance the marriage will get back and be mended".

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00:38:49,900 --> 00:38:58,400

And I had thought that, I had thought that perhaps he would realize -- stupidly -- what he had missed,

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00:38:58,400 --> 00:39:10,180

you know and that he would change. So anyway, I stayed in Springfield and then two years later ended up finally divorcing him and married someone else.

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00:39:10,180 --> 00:39:15,320

What did you do while you were in Springfield?

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00:39:15,320 --> 00:39:26,440

I had been going to school from the time that my son was born in 1973, started back in school,

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00:39:26,440 --> 00:39:38,260

graduated from... graduated in the top part of the class, straight As from Arizona Western and then transferred to Wright State

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00:39:38,260 --> 00:39:46,740

and then I was working on my... during the divorce and the separation, I was working on my Masters Degree.

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00:39:46,740 --> 00:39:48,420

So what are your degrees on?

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00:39:48,420 --> 00:39:56,980

My degree is in, well Associates of Arts was just in general classes.

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00:39:56,980 --> 00:40:04,660

The I got a B.A. in English and then I got an M.S. in Education, Teaching actually.

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00:40:04,660 --> 00:40:05,860

So have you been teaching?

385

00:40:05,860 --> 00:40:10,740

Yes, I've been teaching for thirty years. Yeah, there goes my dream of being a lawyer.

386

00:40:10,740 --> 00:40:12,160

[laughing]

387

00:40:12,160 --> 00:40:22,100

Yeah I taught for thirty years. It's not something I wanted to do at first. When I married my second husband, he had three kids, we had two more.

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00:40:22,100 --> 00:40:30,340

So with my kids, his kids, our kids we had seven and we couldn't make it on one paycheck.

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00:40:30,340 --> 00:40:36,460

So I was going to school, I was working at odd jobs,

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00:40:36,460 --> 00:40:52,420

and then finally one day I came home from school. His dad and he had been talking to me about being a teacher, being home all summer,

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00:40:52,420 --> 00:41:02,760

it was an eight to three job and nothing, you know and I knew better, because I taught at Wright State for a couple years as a TA and I knew the amount of work there was in it

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00:41:02,760 --> 00:41:12,940

and I told them, I said " if you want me do this that's fine, but understand that it's not eight to three, that it's a lot more hours that I'm going to devote",

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00:41:12,940 --> 00:41:22,240

because I'm a very meticulous person and a perfectionist. So we talked about it and they said "yeah, go for your degree".

394

00:41:22,240 --> 00:41:27,400

So I went back to UD and got my degree and then started teaching.

395

00:41:27,400 --> 00:41:28,380

Okay.

396

00:41:28,380 --> 00:41:37,040

Yeah I started at Troy High School and then transferred. They were in money problems and they didn't rehire me.

397

00:41:37,040 --> 00:41:46,060

They went two million dollars in debt and had to drop people. So then I got picked up by Springfield City Schools and that's where I was for twenty-eight years.

398

00:41:46,060 --> 00:41:47,040

Well okay.

399

00:41:47,040 --> 00:41:55,440

Yeah, teaching English in high school.

400

00:41:55,440 --> 00:42:00,280

So how did your military experience affect your life?

401

00:42:00,280 --> 00:42:07,960

My kids say, students, my students say I'm very military oriented.

402

00:42:07,960 --> 00:42:11,820

I'm a no nonsense person. If I say don't talk, don't talk.

403

00:42:11,820 --> 00:42:16,660

You know, I tell them I was a sergeant in the Marine Corps, don't give me any guff, you know.

404

00:42:16,660 --> 00:42:24,820

When I was teaching summer school, if the kids were late I'd make them do pushups or go to the principle's office or whatever.

405

00:42:24,820 --> 00:42:27,200

And they always invariably chose the pushups.

406

00:42:27,200 --> 00:42:28,160

Sure. [laughing]

407

00:42:28,160 --> 00:42:34,240

Okay, I think it taught me to be self reliant.

408

00:42:34,240 --> 00:42:46,340

I think it... even though I was weak in my marriage, because I stayed with the man for eight years.

409

00:42:46,340 --> 00:42:54,060

He was a Marine and so I was very drawn to that idea that I stay married

410

00:42:54,060 --> 00:43:04,320

and I was committed to my vows. I think once I broke away from that, I think I had a better handle on things in my own life.

411

00:43:04,320 --> 00:43:06,580

I knew I could take care of myself, you know.

412

00:43:06,580 --> 00:43:15,720

My father doesn't believe that women can do anything... or my father didn't believe that women could do anything is probably the fact that I did,

413

00:43:15,720 --> 00:43:21,300

but he didn't believe women should have the role in society that they... the equal role.

414

00:43:21,300 --> 00:43:26,000

Women were never equal. My mom totally depended on him.

415

00:43:26,000 --> 00:43:34,120

And so I learned that from him. So I took care of my husband and met his needs instead of meeting mine

416

00:43:34,120 --> 00:43:44,540

and then married another marine -- something about marine -- married another marine and he left after twenty-five years.

417

00:43:44,540 --> 00:43:50,860

So I think I was too independent. You know, he was old school.

418

00:43:50,860 --> 00:44:01,280

He wanted a woman who do his bidding and be you know, beneath him and I was not willing to do that, never will.

419

00:44:01,280 --> 00:44:02,100

Sure.

420

00:44:02,100 --> 00:44:07,460

And so now I've been divorced for ten years and happier than I've ever been.

421

00:44:07,460 --> 00:44:08,320

Good for you.

422

00:44:08,320 --> 00:44:12,220

Yeah. [laughing]

423

00:44:12,220 --> 00:44:19,060

So how has your military service impact your feelings about war and the military in general?

424

00:44:19,060 --> 00:44:26,780

I can tell you that it irritates me when people say bad things, negative things about our servicemen.

425

00:44:26,780 --> 00:44:36,280

It also irritates me when people don't seem to care about what happens to a disabled vet

426

00:44:36,280 --> 00:44:44,160

or what happens... the person I'm seeing right now had prostate cancer form agent orange.

427

00:44:44,160 --> 00:44:56,740

I know a lot of marines that have come back sick, you know and they're critical of why they're getting the extra money or whatever.

428

00:44:56,740 --> 00:45:05,020

I can tell you that when I was married in that twenty-five years, my husband lost his job and for fourteen months couldn't buy a job

429

00:45:05,020 --> 00:45:09,420

during the recession, the Reagan years in the eighties.

430

00:45:09,420 --> 00:45:15,960

Couldn't buy a job and if it wasn't for veterans services I would have lost my house.

431

00:45:15,960 --> 00:45:21,400

So being a veteran has its advantages and it has impacted me.

432

00:45:21,400 --> 00:45:27,060

I'm very proud of that, that I'm a Marine. I mean you ask anybody, I'm...

433

00:45:27,060 --> 00:45:32,420

in fact, I got a hat that says women veteran you know, because

434

00:45:32,420 --> 00:45:37,260

most people will see on my license plate it says Marine Corps and they'll say "who's the marine?" and I'll say "I am".

435

00:45:37,260 --> 00:45:46,600

"Really?" You know, because you don't associate women with marines, you just associated the men, the few, the strong, the proud.

436

00:45:46,600 --> 00:45:52,400

Well we're the fewer, the stronger, the prouder, [laughing] you know.

437

00:45:52,400 --> 00:46:01,060

So I think it impacts everything that I do. It has impacted who I've become.

438
00:46:01,060 --> 00:46:09,940
While I was in there was a time when I was almost raped and

439
00:46:09,940 --> 00:46:15,620
just being a woman during those times and know women go through it even now and I'm thinking

440
00:46:15,620 --> 00:46:22,960
you know, how... we've got to do something about this, we've got to change something, we've got to do something, because this is not right.

441
00:46:22,960 --> 00:46:30,780
Guys when I was young all thought I was there for one reason and I wasn't that kind of a girl, I wasn't.

442
00:46:30,780 --> 00:46:42,560
I was raised in a strict Catholic family and you know, the person I married was the first person I'd ever been with you know and

443
00:46:42,560 --> 00:46:49,640
there's a whole mentality out there of people who think women are doing it just to get a man.

444
00:46:49,640 --> 00:46:56,120
My DI says the said thing. They think that women do it because they're butch...

445
00:46:56,120 --> 00:46:56,800
Umhmm.

446
00:46:56,800 --> 00:47:03,740
or women do it because I don't even know.

447
00:47:03,740 --> 00:47:14,180
I just know that today when I talk about being a woman marine and how proud I am of that it makes my heart...

448
00:47:14,180 --> 00:47:23,200
even today to even talk about it makes my heart flutter a little bit, to know that I went through the toughest boot camp that they had.

449
00:47:23,200 --> 00:47:29,940
You know, I mean, I can't imagine the Air Force, the Army, or the Navy doing what we went through, you know.

450
00:47:29,940 --> 00:47:39,060

I mean, they don't today do what the Marines do. So yeah, I'm very proud

451

00:47:39,060 --> 00:47:45,080

and plus I also like the fact that the Marines have always been known to help children, Toys for Tots.

452

00:47:45,080 --> 00:47:55,860

You know, I joined the Marine Corps League, because I wanted to help with Toys for Tots and there was a chapter in Springfield the Marine Corps League was in charge of.

453

00:47:55,860 --> 00:47:57,860

So I joined the Marine Corps League for that reason.

454

00:47:57,860 --> 00:47:58,700

Okay.

455

00:47:58,700 --> 00:48:07,220

And now I'm treasurer of the Marine Corps League detachment in Springfield. So it keeps me busy. I've been commander of the Veterans Organization,

456

00:48:07,220 --> 00:48:14,200

the Veterans Council. I was commander for three years.

457

00:48:14,200 --> 00:48:18,380

It's part of my life. Being a marine is part of who I am.

458

00:48:18,380 --> 00:48:23,080

Okay, are there any other organizations that you volunteer with?

459

00:48:23,080 --> 00:48:33,540

Oh yeah, I'm with Kiwanis. I'm the advisor for the Key Club at Springfield High School. So I'm busy with that.

460

00:48:33,540 --> 00:48:41,360

I help with the soup kitchen, I help at Second Harvest, I help at St. Vincent de Paul food pantry,

461

00:48:41,360 --> 00:48:46,980

we raise money for Pennies for Patients, which is Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

462

00:48:46,980 --> 00:49:00,580

We raise money for St. Jude's, we raise money for cystic fibrosis. So all that is part of my service back to the community.

463

00:49:00,580 --> 00:49:12,500

It just, I'm still not a citizen and part of the reason for that is because back when I got out I got a little bit upset with the government.

464

00:49:12,500 --> 00:49:20,040

I took the.. I was off at a job doing the same thing the military signed me up for: dispersing.

465

00:49:20,040 --> 00:49:26,420

They kept the job open for three months. I took the civil service exam and I don't even know how I did.

466

00:49:26,420 --> 00:49:36,040

All I got back was "disqualified" right across, "not a citizen" and I thought to myself well I can serve two years of my life

467

00:49:36,040 --> 00:49:46,240

and you're going to disqualify me from what you trained me to do, because I don't have a piece of paper that says permanent resident?

468

00:49:46,240 --> 00:49:55,960

But it kind of made me think twice about was this the kind of government that I want to be associated with.

469

00:49:55,960 --> 00:50:01,360

And then the other thing was I would've had to renounce my Australian citizenship and I didn't want to do that.

470

00:50:01,360 --> 00:50:02,200

Okay.

471

00:50:02,200 --> 00:50:07,800

So I didn't. Now I'm thinking about becoming an American citizen.

472

00:50:07,800 --> 00:50:17,060

I'm probably more proud of this country than anybody who was born here, because take it for granted.

473

00:50:17,060 --> 00:50:27,340

But when you come in as an immigrant you know, you speak a different language and essential I spoke you know, when I came from Australia I spoke a different language even though it was English.

474

00:50:27,340 --> 00:50:32,600

Half the time nobody understood me, because I had an accent and because I used different words

475

00:50:32,600 --> 00:50:37,460

and I could speak a different language as well you know, Hungarian.

476
00:50:37,460 --> 00:50:45,440
So you learn to appreciate you know, the finer points of where you're living.

477
00:50:45,440 --> 00:50:52,940
I've been back to Australia many a time. I would love to go back live there, but my children are all here and my children are all natural born citizens.

478
00:50:52,940 --> 00:50:55,520
So that's why I'm here.

479
00:50:55,520 --> 00:51:06,380
Surely, so what message would you like to leave for future generations who will see this video?

480
00:51:06,380 --> 00:51:11,740
The reason I went into the Marine Corps is because I wanted something.

481
00:51:11,740 --> 00:51:20,120
It wasn't a man, it wasn't you know, metals and things like that. I wanted a college education

482
00:51:20,120 --> 00:51:30,760
and what I want people to take away from this is you live in a country where college education is available to anyone who wants it.

483
00:51:30,760 --> 00:51:35,900
You just have to find a way to get it.

484
00:51:35,900 --> 00:51:40,100
My way happened to be the military. It happened to work out fine for me.

485
00:51:40,100 --> 00:51:47,360
Perhaps military is great for other people. I really think everybody should take a two year stint in the military.

486
00:51:47,360 --> 00:51:56,800
I think it would make people realize the country that they live in is one of the greatest countries on this earth

487
00:51:56,800 --> 00:52:03,420
and it will make people understand what it is to serve others,

488
00:52:03,420 --> 00:52:08,240
because now my life is about serving right now. I'm retired,

489

00:52:08,240 --> 00:52:14,580

had thirty years in in teaching, I'm retired, I'm serving the community or at least trying to

490

00:52:14,580 --> 00:52:20,620

and I want my children, my grandchildren to carry on that tradition

491

00:52:20,620 --> 00:52:31,860

and by looking at this video I want people to understand that service to the country is a great way to show and to give back

492

00:52:31,860 --> 00:52:41,120

what the country has given to them and I firmly believe that this country is probably one of the finest countries in the world.

493

00:52:41,120 --> 00:52:48,860

Even though I'm not a citizen I'm going to be probably becoming a citizen.

494

00:52:48,860 --> 00:52:56,140

But even someone who's an immigrant can have an impact and

495

00:52:56,140 --> 00:53:04,360

my impact on the world, I hope will be a legacy of my children and

496

00:53:04,360 --> 00:53:11,860

if my children can leave a legacy of giving service to God and country, that's all I ask for.

497

00:53:11,860 --> 00:53:13,300

(Voice from phone: "Excuse me, there is message for you")

498

00:53:13,300 --> 00:53:14,480

[laughing]

499

00:53:14,480 --> 00:53:19,300

My phone tells me there is a message for me. [laughing]

500

00:53:19,300 --> 00:53:25,520

Okay, so is there anything you feel like we haven't discussed that you'd like to add?

501

00:53:25,520 --> 00:53:32,960

No, I don't think so. I can honestly say that the two years that I spent in. Not quite two years, one year, eight months,

and twenty-two days,

502

00:53:32,960 --> 00:53:38,080

that the years that I spent in helped make me who I am today.

503

00:53:38,080 --> 00:53:45,100

And so knowing that it was definitely worthwhile, definitely worthwhile.

504

00:53:45,100 --> 00:53:57,600

I have pride, I have you know, I have resilience, I can bounce back from any situation, and I love this country.

505

00:53:57,600 --> 00:53:59,820

And one last question.

506

00:53:59,820 --> 00:54:00,320

Sure.

507

00:54:00,320 --> 00:54:04,280

So how are you a part of the Honor Flight Dayton?

508

00:54:04,280 --> 00:54:12,240

Because I was in during Vietnam era they were calling on Vietnam war veterans

509

00:54:12,240 --> 00:54:20,140

and the guy that I'm seeing knows that I was in the Marine Corps at the same time and he was in Vietnam

510

00:54:20,140 --> 00:54:28,600

and when they contacted him he asked if I could come along and be a part of it, because was in as well.

511

00:54:28,600 --> 00:54:40,440

As soon as they heard I was female and that I was in the Marine Corps they jumped at the opportunity. So most amazing thing I've ever been through, most humbling, the most humbling,

512

00:54:40,440 --> 00:54:48,940

because while I never would have expected a reception like that when I came home in 1970,

513

00:54:48,940 --> 00:54:58,480

to see that reception now just filled my eyes with tears and to know that so many now regret

514

00:54:58,480 --> 00:55:06,720

what are country did back then, you know, regret the fact that they didn't walk us home with open arms and

515

00:55:06,720 --> 00:55:22,880

that they called us baby killers that they called us. I still believe that there is need for armed forces.

516

00:55:22,880 --> 00:55:30,880

I think under all circumstances our men and women in the service need to be taken care of when they get out.

517

00:55:30,880 --> 00:55:39,980

Absolutely need to be. They should have access to VA, all of them. I don't

518

00:55:39,980 --> 00:55:46,180

and most veterans don't. If you make a certain amount of money you can't have access to any VA.

519

00:55:46,180 --> 00:55:55,260

They should... I know they get extra points on civil service exams things like that and I was able to vie my military service

520

00:55:55,260 --> 00:56:01,860

in order to complete my thirty years as a teacher, because the two years at Wright State didn't count.

521

00:56:01,860 --> 00:56:11,540

So I believe that all veterans should be taken care of and their families.

522

00:56:11,540 --> 00:56:21,780

It breaks my heart when I see someone struggling and they've been a vet and I think to myself why isn't anybody helping?

523

00:56:21,780 --> 00:56:32,120

I'm going down next week to the VA hospital with another member of the Marine Corps League and we're going to visit some wheelchair bound vets

524

00:56:32,120 --> 00:56:40,540

hoping to find someone who needs a home, because there's a man down there who's going to build a home completely free

525

00:56:40,540 --> 00:56:44,880

for some veteran who is wheelchair bound.

526

00:56:44,880 --> 00:56:55,080

So that's our object next month to go... next week rather, is to go down there and find a veteran so this man can build a house for him and his family

527

00:56:55,080 --> 00:57:03,060

or her and her family, whatever. Doesn't matter who it is. Every veteran should hold a high place in society.

528

00:57:03,060 --> 00:57:12,400

I just... and honestly I believe everybody young and old should take a two year stint, because I think it will make them a better person.

529

00:57:12,400 --> 00:57:17,500

Very true. Okay, well if you have nothing left to say.

530

00:57:17,500 --> 00:57:18,000

No.

531

00:57:18,000 --> 00:57:21,160

Alright then that concludes our interview and thank you for your service.

532

00:57:21,160 --> 00:57:23,160

Oh you're welcome.