

Veteran Interview Questions:

Which war(s) did you serve in (WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, the Persian Gulf)?

I was in the Gulf War where I fought in Desert Storm and I also fought in a short campaign in Haiti in 1994.

Why did you join?

I joined because my father had served in World War II, I received a scholarship from Penn State to be in the ROTC program, but it was mainly because I had always been interested in the military.

How did you feel about entering the military during wartime; were you afraid, proud, or perhaps excited?

I was very proud going into wartime. I had been in the military for 15 years already so it was my job to fight for this country. I had been at Fort Bragg with elite soldiers so I knew that we would win the conflict.

What branch and Why did you pick the service branch you joined?

I was in the Army because my dad was in the Army in World War II and the many opportunities like being a paratrooper interested me.

Where exactly did you go?

In my military career I went to Fort Bragg, Fort Benning, Fort Leavenworth, Fort Lewis in America. The foreign countries I went to were Korea, Germany, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Panama, Haiti, and the United Arab Emirates.

Ask what his or her rank was.

I retired at Lieutenant Colonel.

What was your job/assignment?

I was an operations officer in the 18th Airborne Corp where I was one of three majors that ran a command post of four divisions of over 100,000 men.

Tell me about a couple of your most memorable experiences.

I can still remember when we seized Iraq with Saudi Arabia. I was flying over the border into Iraq and I was thinking how amazing it is that I was invading another country.

Were you awarded any medals or citations?

I was given too many awards to remember but the most notable award was the Bronze Star.

How did your service and experiences affect your life?

It made life a lot easier. The experience of the hard work in the military helped me become a leader in my work life and volunteering in my community.

Wash High alumni questions:

What years did you go to Wash High?

I graduated in 1971.

Did you attend the park school or the ward schools?

I went to 1st Ward until 8th grade when I went to the high school.

What type of clubs were available to join?

Some of the clubs I can remember are the international club which is like a mock UN and key club. The clubs I was actually in were letterman's club, track, and National Honor Society.

How did events going on in the world at the time you were at Wash High spread into your education and school life?

The Civil Rights Movement was going on at the time and there were some riots. When Martin Luther King Jr. was killed, all the African-American students left the school to protest. Also, the Vietnam War was controversial as some kids wore black armbands to protest the war. I got into a little trouble with this because I may have accidentally shoved a student with an armband on.

What was the building like at this time?

It was almost exactly the same as the building you go to school in now. I went to the honor roll assembly a couple years ago and the gym looked the same except the stage that was there when I went to school wasn't there.

How were Wash High vs. Trinity tensions?

Trinity was our biggest rival as we played them in every single sport. There were fights after the games sometimes.

What are your most memorable experiences?

On Senior Rec I won several awards but I was especially surprised to find out that I received a letter for track. I was not very good and it was absolutely surprising to me. I remember looking into the seats and I saw my dad with a very proud look. He wasn't the person to get emotional so it took a lot for him to be that proud.

What was the most controversial thing going on at the time?

The most controversial thing in the world at the time was Vietnam but it wasn't that controversial in the high school. It probably would have to be the dress code at the time. Girls started to wear short, tight clothes and guys started to grow out their hair. This wasn't allowed so many people were sent home from school.

How did technology correlate with your education?

It really didn't. The most technologically advanced item we had was the circular slide rule that we used in physics and calculus.

Social themes of your time at high school/Pop Culture

This was around the time of the hippie generation like I talked a little about before. Clothing was completely changing at the time. A girl got pregnant during my four years and that was shocking to everyone. People also first started to experiment with drugs and this was also shocking.

What was your family's life like?

I grew up in a typical middle class family. My dad would go out to work while my mom was the homemaker who didn't have a job. Every day I came home from school a meal was ready for us. My home life was similar to a 50s family.

What classes did you take?

I took the college prep classes. I was in the AP sciences but I specifically remember being in the AP European history class. I wanted to be a history major when I was in high school until I eventually realized that I wanted to be in the military.