

# Veterans History Project

## The questions we asked

### Segment 1: For the Record:

State at the beginning of the interview:

- Today is \_\_\_\_\_ it is \_\_\_\_\_ PM, We are at Mount Everett Regional School Sheffield Massachusetts
- We are interviewing \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ birth date is \_\_\_\_\_
- The people conducting the interview are \_\_\_\_\_ and myself \_\_\_\_\_, recording the interview is \_\_\_\_\_
- We are working with Kevin Wolgemuth's Grade 9 Honors English Class

### Segment 2: Jogging Memory:

Were you drafted or did you enlist?

Where were you living at the time?

Why did you join?

Why did you pick the service branch you joined?

Do you recall your first days in service?

What did it feel like?

Tell me about your boot camp/training experience(s).

Do you remember your instructors?

How did you get through your initial training or boot camp?

### Segment 3: Experiences:

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

Where exactly did you go?

Do you remember arriving and what it was like?

What was your job/assignment?

Did you see combat?

Were there many casualties in your unit?

Tell me about a couple of your most memorable experiences.

Were you a prisoner of war?

Tell me about your experiences in captivity and when freed.

Were you awarded any medals or citations?

How did you get them?

(Higher ranks may be asked about battle planning. Those who sustained injuries may be asked about the circumstances.)

#### **Segment 4: Life:**

Ask questions about life in the service and/or at the front or under fire.

How did you stay in touch with your family?

What was the food like?

Did you have plenty of supplies?

Did you feel pressure or stress?

Was there something special you did for "good luck"?

How did people entertain themselves?

Were there entertainers who came to your area?

What did you do when on leave?

Where did you travel while in the service?

Do you recall any particularly humorous or unusual event?

What were some of the pranks that you or others would pull?

(If the veteran brought photographs)

Do you have photographs? Who are the people in the photographs?

What did you think of your officers or fellow soldiers?

Did you keep a personal diary? If you did do you still have it, or do you have any letters you sent or received

### **Segment 5: After Service:**

(Appropriateness of questions will vary if the veteran had a military career).

Do you recall the day your service ended? Where were you?

What did you do in the days and weeks afterward?

Did you work or go back to school?

Was your education supported by the G.I. Bill?

Did you make any close friendships while in the service? Did you continue any of those relationships?

Did you join a veteran's organization?

### **Segment 6: Later Years and Closing:**

What did you go on to do as a career after the war?

Did your military experience influence your thinking about war or about the military in general?

If in a veteran's organization, what kinds of activities does your post or association have?

Do you attend reunions?

How did your service and experiences affect your life?

What advice would you have for a young person who is considering entering the military?

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