

**This interview is being conducted on Thursday, September 1, 2016 at the home of Sherman Vaughn. My name is Fran Prokop and I am speaking with Mr. Vaughn, who served in the U.S. Navy and is a veteran of WWII and the Korean Conflict. Mr. Vaughn learned of the Veterans' History Project from Kim Crist, manager of Senior Star facility, and has kindly consented to participate in the National Archives Veterans' History Project.**

**Here is his story:**

**When and where were you born?**

Like I said, there was some conflict, but I told the Navy it was Marion, Illinois.

**And the date?**

March 13, 1924.

**What were your parents' occupations?**

My mother was just a plain housewife, and my father, as far as I've been told – I've never seen him – worked for the Highway Department, State of Illinois – building roads down in Southern Illinois. My mother eventually ended up as an LPN in a funny farm, I call it, in Manteno – since then it's been turned into a Veterans Home. She died in 1963.

**How many brothers and sisters did you have?**

Brothers and sisters that I knew, there was five – my older sister told me that there was two of them born dead – so I don't know really. I had two brothers and three sisters. One brother died at the age of 11.

**How about the other brother? Did he ever go into the service?**

He was in the Army for awhile – but he was drafted. He had four children – while he was in boot camp they called him; his wife went into a tree and killed herself.

**Oh, my God.**

So he got home; he had four kids to take care of.

**Wow – so they released him from the Army.**

Yeah. He died at age 92; in fact most of my family died at a late age.

**Well, you've got good genes. What did you do before entering the service?**

I worked for the government in the NYA program – National Youth Administration. I was a welder and carpenter, more or less, building chairs for the Army. I built – when I was a welder I was making practice bombs – 100-pound bombs.

**Describe that – what did you have to do with that?**

All I had to do was weld them together.

**What were they made of – the practice bombs?**

Just a light metal; a little bit heavier than tin. More like stove pipe; you can just weld the seams on them.

**That's interesting. So, how old were you when you entered the service?**

Seventeen.

**Were you drafted or did you enlist?**

I enlisted.

**Why did you choose the Navy?**

Well, I went in a group of seven and the other six went into the three C's – that's Civilian Conservation Corps. They said you're gonna go in the Army when you get into war.

And I said, I'm not gonna go in the Army, I'll go in the Navy; I'll have a warm bed and a lot of food. And I won't have to crawl around on my belly in the mud. Ha, ha.

**Right, right. Ha, ha.**

That's the way it happened.

**That right. So where did you go to enlist? Did you have to come to Chicago?**

Marion but I was sworn in in St. Louis.

**Okay, but you enlisted in Marion.**

Yeah.

**And then they sent you to St. Louis?**

Went to St. Louis the 16<sup>th</sup> of December, got sworn in. And we left there on a train with a whole bunch of other people -- went to San Diego, Boot Camp. Took us till the 19<sup>th</sup>, I guess to get out there.

**Yeah, three days by train. What was the name of the camp in San Diego – do you remember.**

Naval Training Center. I was there till January 2 – went aboard the USS Crescent City, no idea what the number was but it was a very low one; it was one of the older transports they have.

**And where did they send you? Where did you go?**

We went to Pearl Harbor – took us nine days to get over there.

**Wait a minute – you only had a couple of weeks of boot camp?**

Two or three weeks.

**Two or three weeks?**

They were putting people in and putting them out.

**What did you do at boot camp to prepare you – what were your duties there?**

Marching, not much, getting some clothes (uniforms) not much – they didn't have many.

**You didn't have ammunition or guns?**

No.

**No training with guns?**

No; never fired a gun.

**They didn't do much – maybe Army did more.**

Never fired a gun all the time I was in the Navy.

**Mostly you learned how to march?**

Yeah, ha, ha. We went aboard the Crescent City to go to Pearl Harbor – and we got over there on the 19<sup>th</sup> of January 1942. I worked in the ice cream stand on the ship – till we got over to Pearl Harbor – nine days.

**How was the trip over?**

Uneventful.

**Nobody got sick or anything, no hurricane or –**

Well, a lot of them got sick, but I didn't – I don't know why I didn't. But anyway, we got over there alright, and they said, after we pulled into the harbor over there, they said they sunk one of those one-man subs outside the harbor. And I think they pulled it up and it sat on blocks over there.

**Oh, really?**

When we got over there, the fuel oil was about a foot thick yet on the water – and a lot of the ships were still where they went, turned over, sunk – there were four destroyers and one dry dock that was burnt – completely out, no good. But I didn't pay much attention to anything except the Arizona and the Utah, and I think the Nevada – they run that aground on purpose just so it wouldn't get sunk. They pulled that off and refurbished it. In fact they did -- a lot of them got refurbished – those battleships. From what I hear, the Japanese thought the carriers were gonna be in Pearl Harbor, but they weren't. The one carrier I was on left San Diego in October, and it didn't get in to – went on maneuvers or something, I don't know –

**What carrier was that?**

The Saratoga.

**Wait a minute – you said you left on the USS Crescent City –**

Yeah, that was a transport to get to Pearl Harbor.

**Okay, so once you got to Pearl Harbor, then –**

I went on board the carrier Saratoga, on January 19, 1942.

**Well, how long did you stay in Pearl Harbor?**

About three days, maybe –

**Oh, so you just saw all the sights – all the ships and stuff , but you didn't have to do any kind of –**

From what I could see on the ship, what I could see out there – yes. We left Pearl Harbor and went to Bremerton, Washington, to the Navy Yard.

**Why did you go there?**

Had to go to the Navy Yard to get repaired – they picked up a torpedo and they patched it in Pearl Harbor and they had to send it back to Bremerton – I think they were down by Wake Island, I guess – and they picked up a torpedo.

**So after the ship was repaired, what happened?**

They patched it – I don't know what happened. I wasn't on it then. I got on after.

**Where did you go?**

They went back to Pearl Harbor and they patched that hole, torpedo hole, and we set there for 2 or 3 days after that, and they sent us to Washington – Bremerton – we was there about four months; they remodeled it.

**It took four months to do that whole ship?**

They changed the configuration on it – the silhouette.

**And what were you doing for those four months while the ship was being repaired?**

Well, I just did the normal things anybody would do, like fire watch and so forth.

**Regular watched – you took?**

Yeah, nothing spectacular. They didn't have too many –

**But you still lived on the ship while it was being repaired?**

Yeah.

**And you ate from the galley there and everything?**

Yeah.

**Were you ever doing any kind of cooking – other than your ice cream?**

No, no. Ha, h a.

**Did you ever have any specialized training or classroom teaching?**

I did.

**Where was that?**

I went to the Yeoman's School, B School, I guess they call it, so I could learn shorthand.

**Oh, regular shorthand?**

Sure.

**Like Gregg?**

And pick up on Naval Justice.

**What kind of shorthand was it – Gregg or Pittman?**

Gregg Shorthand.

**Okay, wow, I didn't know that they even taught that.**

Oh, yeah, they did then. I don't know what they do now. I think now they got those, uh, machines, don't know what they call them.

**Court reporter machines – Stenograph machines.**

But I could have went to work for the court system if I had known how to use that machine.

**Yeah, well, they could have taught you that too, instead of the Gregg; they probably didn't have any teachers there to teach it.**

That was four months.

**So you learned Gregg in four months?**

Yeah.

**Wow, I was in high school – it took a whole year.**

When I graduated from there I was number 17 out of the rest of the class. I was #7 - #1 had 99.4; I was 97.7 – and I was only good for #7.

**Unbelievable!**

A bunch of smarties!

**Yeah, they were smart. Okay, that was four months that you had classroom teaching – that was your specialized training. So you came out a –**

I come back and was stationed at Great Lakes.

**Did you get an increase in grade when you completed that class?**

No, I had to take the Fleet Wide Exam one time, I passed, that's when I made E-6.

**That was later on though, right?**

Yeah.

**But right now just with your shorthand – the shorthand class was in 1949. And when you finished the shorthand class, then what happened?**

Let's see, went –

**Wait – we're still talking – we have to go back to 1942, right.**

In 1942 I went on board the carrier, and after we left Bremerton, Washington, we went to San Diego – qualifying pilots for aircraft carrier duty – and we were down there for a month, then we went back to Pearl Harbor.

**Okay, you're back at Pearl, we're talking late 1942 now –**

July 7<sup>th</sup>, 1942 we left Pearl Harbor, with a whole bunch of other people, went to Guadalcanal. We stayed out there for about six months.

**What did you do there – what was your job?**

My job was just making sure the aircraft were out. I had a battle station on the port side forward; all I had to do was wear a sound-powered phone set. And when they were launching aircraft, I let them know when it left the deck.

**What was that job title called? What were you called?**

There was no title involved.

**How would they call you to duty?**

Oh, fly one port.

**There you go – if they had to get hold of you. So for six months you had that job while you were at Guadalcanal.**

I didn't have much of a job other than that. I had to learn how to take a machine gun apart – a 20 mm -- and put it back together, but we never used it; never used it.

**You didn't really shoot it –**

No.

**Was your ship sailing up and down the coast, or what, on the Saratoga?**

Whatever –

**What ocean were you on then?**

The South Pacific, near western Pacific, mostly.

**Did you come in contact with the enemy – did the ship have contact with the enemy ships?**

No, there was a lot of other ships there – helping out, shooting, flares and all that sort of thing –

**Planes were taking off from the deck?**

Oh, yeah, we – there was two other carriers there, I'm not sure which ones – one of them was the Enterprise. I don't know what the other one was. The Enterprise got a bomb on one side of it, I don't know which one, but they had to retire.

**Your ship was not hit?**

Our ship was torpedoed on August 2, 1942.

**And were you on it?**

At Guadalcanal –

**But you were on the ship at that time?**

Oh, yeah.

**So what happened – why don't you tell us about that.**

They had – one man got a broken arm and one got a broken leg; that was the extent of the casualties. But the torpedo hole in there – you could put four trucks in there side by side. They had it sealed off. There were 16 fire rooms on the Saratoga; they only used eight and the ones that got bumped there were not in use; they were sealed off.

**Wow! It's amazing that they could float!**

We listed to port about 30 degrees, maybe, and I think the USS Minneapolis, a heavy cruiser, put a tow line on us and towed us to the Tonga Islands, and we sat down there for awhile. They put concrete in there and stabilized the ship.

**Wow!**

Then we left there and went to Pearl Harbor – that's when we went to – where did we go that time?

**You said before that you went to Palau, Okinawa –**

We went to all those – I wasn't aboard when they went to Okinawa. They went to Iwo Jima after I got off. We hit nine Battlestars while I was on it and one torpedo while I was on it. When we got back to Pearl Harbor, they come over to the station and one of the guys wanting to get on board ship with his buddy, and they came over and asked me if I would trade places – sure – I had started working in the air offices as a typist.

**So you traded positions, is that what you're saying?**

Yeah.

**With a friend –**

Making up sorties, they were called, writing all the information needed, passing them out in the boardroom to the pilots.

**So you were like in a clerical position on the ship.**

Yeah, yeah. That's where I started. They come down and wanted to know if anybody knew how to type. And I said I don't know now, but I did in 1937.

**That was good enough, I'm sure.**

So I was picked up and put in the office – which wasn't too bad.

**So that was the Saratoga; you stayed and you worked in the office.**

Yeah, and I traded places with this guy and it was stationed at Navy 10 AT A-I-E-A – a little ways from Pearl Harbor, and all it was was a maintenance outfit. I had a job there where I worked for the boss. I made up requisitions for materials, and stuff like that; answered any phone calls and any mail that they got. It was good.

**So besides having this office job, you still had a battle station, right, if something came up you had to go to that battle station or no?**

No. somebody else got it.

**Okay, so once you got the office job, you stayed at the office.**

Yeah, yeah, until I got traded off with this guy, and I stayed there until December of '45.

**Was that another ship? Or was that the Saratoga?**

No, I was on the beach there at Aiea.

**Were you doing office work there on the beach?**

Yep.

**Okay, they had a base there?**

Yeah, it was a maintenance outfit – maintenance and repairs. It was good duty. I stayed there until December of '45. I was sitting outside –

**Where were you when the war ended?**

That's where I was at Aiea – sitting on the back of a flatbed truck getting some sun with the radio going and then the guy says, Hey, a bulletin just came in; the war was over!

**So how much longer did you stay on Aiea after that?**

I left there in December of '45 and come back to San Francisco. I stayed there for –

**How did you get back to San Francisco?**



On a hospital ship – the USS Hope. And we got into San Francisco – boy it was so foggy they couldn't go in so they had to anchor.

**How was your trip coming back? Did you encounter any bad weather?**

Oh, it was comfortable, I'll say that, 'cuz those hospital ships had 3 or 4 inch mattresses on them; they were comfortable.

**Like the Queen Mary, right?**

**Okay, so you get back to – let's go to some personal stuff, like what were your emotions relating to combat or witnessing casualties – how did you feel about it?**

I didn't have any emotions whatsoever because I was too young to know what it was.

**That's right; you weren't even 21.**

Still a kid.

**And how about witnessing destruction – things like that –**

Oh, when I saw it out there?

**Yeah.**

It kind of made you wonder what the heck was going on. From what I hear about that in 1936 or 7, they made a mock attack on Pearl Harbor –

**Really?**

And it's just where the Japanese did it.

**Really!**

Come in over the mountains. Boy, they really messed that place up –

**That's what I'm saying – when you were in Pearl Harbor then –**

Oh, no, if I'd went in in July I'd probably been in there on it, but I didn't. I didn't get there till December.

**So how about friendships formed –**

Oh, yeah.

**Did you meet guys there that you're still in touch with today?**

A lot of 'em

**Any best friends that you could name?**

We'd go on liberty together and stuff like that – play poker or pinochle or whatever.

**Yeah, what did you do on your off-duty – your recreation time –**

I did a lot of reading, yeah, anything that I could get hold of I'd read.

**How about movies – did they have movies for the guys?**

They had movies, yeah; I didn't go. I didn't like movies, I still don't. I can remember one movie, that I went to since I got out of the Navy – that was in 1953 and I went to sleep for half of it.

**So, you're not a movie person, ha, ha. How about communications from home – how long did it take for a letter to reach you from home?**

When I was on the Saratoga we'd get a batch of mail every once in awhile.

**What were the dates of the mail? How long did it take to get there?**

Oh, it depends; it depends on how much they had – if they had an aircraft they could send out with it. But if they sent it out on a ship it would take a couple of weeks..

**Yeah.**

But everybody was glad to get mail.

**Sure. And was that the only way you communicated with family and friends – by mail – no telephone calls or things like that?**

No. Didn't have any telephones.

**Just letters – by mail.**

They didn't let anybody use them if they had them. If there was some dire strait or something, they would use the telegraph –

**Oh, yeah.**

For whatever.

**But not for ordinary communications.**

Had to be more or less an emergency. We didn't do any conversations at all with the family.

**Just by mail.**

I didn't talk to my sister till I got back to San Francisco – Treasure Island Receiving Station.

**Oh, then you called?**

In '45.

**Phone calls were very expensive at that time.**

Oh, yes.

**A lot more than they are today.**

I called her and told her I was back and okay, and she said she was relieved.

Mrs. Vaughan: He didn't know very much then because he hadn't met me yet.

**That was Mrs. Vaughn, Sherman's wife. What is her name?**

Ellen Mae Shultz.

**That was Mrs. Ellen Mae Shultz Vaughn speaking.**

**Present at this interview was Sherman's wife, Ellen Vaughn, and his daughter, Jacqueline Vaughn Brooks.**

**You went to San Francisco; you didn't come right home.**

Not very much; there was a lot of people there but they gave us a big party and I think it was the Sir Francis Drake Hotel – I'm not real sure on that. They took pictures of everybody and they're trying to dance and there was no room to move.

**Did you stay in the Navy or never got out – what happened?**

I stayed in.

**Where did you go after San Francisco then?**

I went to the East Coast to Quincy, Massachusetts to commission a heavy cruiser – the USS ALBANY.

**Did you get extra stripes or anything before you did this?**

No. I was still E-4. They broke the crew up after four months and I was sent to the Receiving Station in Norfolk, Virginia. I stayed there seven months – I don't know why it took so long but that's how long I was there. I left there and went around through the Panama Canal to San Francisco on the USS William H. Powell, I'm not sure – anyway, went around on a troop transport through the Canal up to San Francisco. They finally got something for me to do –

**I was going to ask you what were you doing – were you doing office work or anything all this time that you were traveling around?**

Yeah, I didn't do anything.

**You did nothing?**

They put me on the USS POLLUX P-O-L-L-U-X as AKS-2 – it was a dry storage ship. Went to Tsing Tao, China, after I married her.

**When did you get married?**

When was it – 1947 – I'm not sure of the month. We picked June 21<sup>st</sup> though.

**Okay, so now you're married – you were only 23 years old when you got married.**

Twenty-three, yeah. And she went home. I went to China.

**Tell me the name of the city again; I didn't catch it.**

In China, T-S-I-N-G T-A-O, Northern China. It was getting close to winter time. We stayed there for about three weeks, I guess. That's when Mao was making noise over there.

**Did you do anything there or just cruise up and down.**

Went aboard the USS HECTOR, AR-7, a repair ship. We left Tsing Tao and went to Shanghai and Hong Kong and then to Guam.

**The war was over so nothing was really going on, right?**

Oh, yeah; it was all after the war. We left 15-degree weather and went into 110-degree weather in Guam. I said that's enough of that, so I put in a request for transfer and I went back to Great Lakes.

In 1951 I went to Rhode Island, Quonset Point Naval Air Station – stayed with them for about 2-3 years.

**What was your job there?**

That's when we went to Korea – the Air Group went to Korea.

**What Air Group were you in?**

I was the boss man in the office; I made First Class, E-6. I was the office manager, you might say.

**But you were on the ship though.**

I was on board ship, yeah. Went aboard the USS Bon Homme Richard.

**What kind of a ship was that?**

Air craft carrier, and after eight months we come back to Quonset Point, and to Great Lakes again.

**With all this traveling – did you go by ship back to Great Lakes or not?**

No, I took a train from San Diego to Quonset Point. I left Quonset Point and went to Great Lakes, I drove and I was there for three years – '46 is when I went to Quincy, Massachusetts to commission the Albany. We commissioned the Albany later that year and took it out on the shakedown and broke up the crew. I went aboard the Dayton CL-105 I think, light cruiser and I stayed aboard that one until my enlistment was up –

**And you were always an office manager on board all these different ships?**

Yeah, yeah –

**You had the same job in each of them.**

Oh, yeah. On the Dayton I worked for the Chief Engineer, which was an interesting job. He was a very nice guy to work for. But when my enlistment was up, they went to the Mediterranean and I went to Norfolk – that's where I went, to Norfolk for seven months, and went to Panama Canal and all that stuff –

**Yeah, you said, that; we're repeating some of the –**

I went aboard the Hector, that's when I made another –went from E-4 to 5.

**So you ended your service in Norfolk, Virginia –**

No, I was there seven months – that was just before I went over to China. I ended up in San Diego. I went to Great Lakes and after I left that I went to San Diego again, to Coronado Naval Air Station, and I went aboard the USS BALDUCK as underwater demolition – forerunner of the Seals. I was on that one until they de-commissioned it in 1958. And from there, they flew us, me and another kid, they flew us up to Widbey Island, Washington, to catch a ship at Bremerton. The USS Chickasaw – ATF-83 – I was on that one until I retired in October of 1960. I told the guy, you give me \$50K and I won't bother you no more. He says I can't do that – okay, Ill live to be 100.

**Well, you're getting there!**

I'm close.

**Right, Was your wife able to join you on occasion?**

In '58, Long Beach.

**Why did they fly you to Widbey Island?**

I was on the Chickasaw – they towed the USS Chicago down to Long Beach –

**Was that like a repair ship too?**

No, that was a heavy cruiser; they were gonna remodel it, I guess, I don't know.

**You did a lot of back and forth stuff –**

We took it down to Long Beach and from there we went to Pearl Harbor –

**Back to Pearl, wow! Every time you went back to Pearl Harbor, was it cleaned up a little more or did it still look like –**

Oh, yeah, yeah – just like nothing happened.

**Well, the ships are still there.**

It cleaned up very well. They had the Arizona monument in the process, I guess. In Pearl Harbor we picked up a floating dry dock and went to Midway – stayed there just long

enough to fuel and went to Sasebo, Japan. We were underway up to Japan, one of the islands, the straits up there, our tow wire broke – few anxious moments there –we Flipped a one-inch wire on it to keep it from going too far away, and we radioed in to get another tug to come out. And they got another tug out there and hooked onto it and took it in to Sasebo. We went on in to Sasebo. Couldn't figure out why that wire broke – a new wire in Long Beach and they test them pretty good there – but it broke; we got a new wire – went back to – where did we go? – went to Pearl Harbor – yeah, we wandered around out there.

**You sure did. What did they do with this floating dry dock; did you leave it there in Japan.**

Yeah, Sasebo. We went from there to Y-O-K-O-S-U-K-A - Yokosuka, Japan; we stayed there a week; in fact I got it all wrote down someplace – in that little green book – I got all that stuff wrote down – the whole time I was out there on the Chickasaw.

After Yokosuka we went back to Sasebo and while we were there – we went from there to South Korea; picked up a couple of coastal steamers, towed them back to Sasebo. We made three trips doing that. When we got through with that, we went up to the Demarcation Line – try to pull a merchant ship off the beach. The skipper told them to just go ahead and put some one-pound dynamite charges under it and blow the sand out of the way, but they said no, that won't work. So we sat out there, 2,000 yards in a cove, about 20 below, something like that – we sat out there and pulled on that sucker and didn't move it. So we unhooked and went back to Sasebo. Two days later that ship come steaming in to the harbor – and we're asking how did they do it? They put these one-pound dynamite charges and cleared away with no problem.

**After Sasebo, what did you do?**

We went back to Pearl Harbor. After we took those six ships back to Sasebo, we went to Hong Kong for a week, and then we went to, I think, Okinawa; we was only there two days. We left there and wet back to Sasebo; then we went back to Pearl Harbor and back to San Diego.

**Was that your final trip?**

No, my final trip was in 1959 – they were gonna send us to Alaska, I think, and the captain didn't want to go so they made arrangements to go t Japan instead. That was

okay; everybody liked it. We were over there until September 1959 or '60. On October 3, 1960 I was released from Active Duty.

**Where did that happen?**

San Diego.

**On the base there, right?**

I've been letting them pay me for breathing ever since.

**How did you get home from San Diego?**

Automobile – took us three weeks; we stopped at a few places.

**Sight seeing.**

We stopped in Denver to see my sister and brother-in-law; they had a restaurant up there. WE pulled in up there about 9:30 or ten o'clock one night; we looked like bums. I walked in and this hostess looked me up and down and says, "Can I help you?" I don't know – is my sister still here? Who's your sister? I told them – oh, yeah, she just left. So I went back in the kitchen and talked to my brother-in-law and they called her and brought her back up there. We set there till two o'clock drinking beer and eating Chinese food.

And it was good, wasn't it?

ELLEN: Very good.

**So then you drove back to Chicago, right?**

We came back to Wausau, Wisconsin – yeah, that's where the wife lived. Her family was there. Got there on a Sunday, and waited out there till the church was over. Her mother came out. I'm setting there looking – I waved at her; she looked at me kinda funny; then she looked again and come running across the street. We stayed up there for about – I don't know – couple of weeks. I think I had 30 days leave. Anyway, we went back to Great Lakes – no I didn't either. I stayed in Wausau.

**Did you live there?**

Yeah.

**So that was your home at that time (turn tape). What did you do, get a job there?**

Yeah, sorta. I ended up working for Caterpillar in Joliet.

**How long did you stay in Wausau?**

About one year.

**And then you came to the Chicago area.**

Come down to Joliet – my sister lived in Channahon. I stayed with her a couple of days and my brother-in-law got me a job at Caterpillar. I stayed with Caterpillar for 25 years.. I retired from them - so now I let them pay me for breathing.

**Do you have any contact today with fellow veterans that you met over the years?**

None that I knew.

**You don't have reunions or anything like that?**

Never did. Started to a couple of times, then something happened – our son got screwed up one way or another and we didn't go.

**Okay.**

One time the skipper of the Chickasaw had a reunion in Pensacola, Florida and I was thinking about it, but I didn't go. He called me and wanted to know why I didn't show up.

**You should have gone.**

I said I'm lame from an old war wound – that was a lie. Ha, ha. No, I told him I don't travel much anymore.

**Are you a member of any veterans' organizations.**

The VFW, American Legion –lifetime VFW and sort of with the American Legion.

**Let's talk about your medals – Sherman has a very nice display case –**

Those are medals that just about everybody got except that one on top – that's a Presidential Unit Citation – that's for service in Korea.

**He had a photo of a ship in the case –**

That was a – we were refueling – when I was on the Bon Homme Richard over in Korea. That was the only picture they could find.

**Sherman has medals from the United States Navy YN-1 Yeoman one – proudly served from December 16, 1941 to October 3, 1960. He has seven medals in the case, plus, just recently, August 10, 2016 –**

I've had a good life.

**Recently he went on the Honor Flight Chicago on August 10, 2016, out of Midway Airport where he received smaller copies of his dog tags and one medal from General Mark A. Milley and one medal from the Honor Flight people – WW II medals.**

It was an interesting day.



**Why don't you tell us about it. I've never had a serviceman who went on the Honor Flight – did you enjoy it?**

I enjoyed it very much.

**What exactly did you see and do?**

We saw the World War II Memorial was the main visit; the Korean Memorial; Air Force, Marines and the Aerospace Museum – that I liked.

**Was that the one at the airport?**

In Washington, someplace.

**Because they have a new one at Dulles Airport.**

That's where we went into –

**You did fly into Dulles.**

Yeah.

**Oh, I assumed that you would fly into Reagan National.**

We got a police escort from the time we hit the ground till we got ready to leave.

**Well, a lot of traffic there – very much. Did you have lunch there ?**

Oh, yeah, we had plenty to eat. Took the bus, one of those deluxe busses, had a bathroom and a refrigerator and lots of water and other stuff. They come walking down once in a while with a bag of stuff, if you wanted something. I didn't eat any of it – 'cuz I'm diabetic and I don't eat stuff like that most of the time.

**Finally, now, how did your military experience affect your life?**

It's made me a man. I grew up in the Navy; I will say that I am self-reliant. To get right down to it, there wasn't anything I couldn't do for myself.

**So what are the life lessons you learned from military service? You know – how do you feel about your service.**

I grew up there; you have to learn self reliance; confidence, be sure you tell the truth, otherwise they lower the boom. Discipline – you learn that too, or else.

**I think the interview is complete; is there anything else you wish to add?**

I don't know; wasn't too bad – we adopted a boy. They told us we'd get a 14-year-old boy, but we ended up with a seven and a half month old boy. So we had to start over; I was 40 at the time; he's 56 now.

**So you had a long life in the Navy and a long civilian life.**

Oh, yeah, yeah.

**You're very fortunate – you look like you're in good health and everything for age 92 – certainly have a good memory.**

I lived in that one house in Romeoville for 49 years before I came over here; it was a regimented life from the start to the finish.

**You look like you enjoyed it; you have a sense of humor.**

I always enjoy it; I just don't jump off the deep end; don't let anything bother me.

**Good for you; good for you. I sure enjoyed this very interesting interview and I thank you very much for granting this interview and for your service to our country.**

Okay, thank you.

**Sherman Vaughn**

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