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**Question:** So we're talking about these people and how they're in different services and how they could find their brother, you know they were at Iwo, or whatever and one brother was at Iwo, came in early, (inaudible) and to travel somewhere to go find family members. I'm like, there's a war going on, guys. Don't you just stay where you're at? No, they're out, tooling around.

**Answer:** Well, you know, we worked hard, and we had long hours and we worked hard, we did our jobs, but then we -- we had time to play, too. And that was -- for me the sight seeing was wonderful, you know, in the different cities and everything. But I still think the most wonderful thing about it was that you had -- that Congress passed that GI bill because it helped them -- all these people, go to college, and it helped them buy homes. And did you know that right after World War II, you couldn't buy cars. Because all of the car companies were making tanks, you know, they switched right away. And it takes a little while to go back from tanks to cars. Well we moved down to Los Angeles in 1947 and we didn't have any money yet so we saved our money -- my money -- my job, the money I made on my job, and so by 1948 we'd saved a thousand dollars, so we went to buy a new car. And we were so thrilled, we had a thousand dollars. You could buy a new car for about two thousand dollars. And so we went to this car dealer and we said we want a new car and you had to put your order in, they didn't have any. And he said you have to pay me \$500 under the table. And we -- we said what for? And he said well you won't get a car if you don't. So we said forget it. So we went out and bought a used car. (laughs)

**Question:** Still didn't get that new car.

**Answer:** Didn't get a new one for quite awhile. But houses now. Now, and what, you've heard of Levitt Town back in Pennsylvania? I think they were the first to build subdivisions after World War II. Cause there -- all these people now, came out of the war. They went in when they were 18 to 20, they came out, they go to college, finish college, now they want a home. You could buy a home for \$50. We bought a beautiful stucco house, three bedrooms, one bath, in those days. Double garage, big yard, orange tree and a grapefruit tree in the back yard, for \$50 down. Pretty good. So that -- in Southern California, they just started cutting down the orchards. And they built them by the thousands, the houses. All over Southern Californi

**Answer:** And we -- we moved to Whittier, but in San Fernando Valley, Pasadena, all over Downey, all over Southern Californi

**Answer:** And it was like that all over the country, they started building houses for all the veterans.

We also got a bonus. Did you know that they -- Washington State had a bonus? I can't remember all the details, but the legislature passed a law here, if you were in the service so long and were from here, you'd get this bonus. So I got a bonus, you know, getting even \$200 or \$300 in those days was just like two or three thousand now. So my husband put in for his bonus and they said no. My husband was from Washington, D.C. And he had come out to Washington State College to go to college. So, they said you're -- you don't qualify for a bonus. And my mother says oh, yes, he does. So she goes up to the governor's office and she sits there until the governor saw her. And he got his bonus, \$400. (laughs) Because he had lived here for three years going to college, so he got his bonus. Now in -- in California they passed a special law. If you were a veteran, you could buy a house for 4-1/2% interest. We weren't California veterans so we -- our first house was 5% interest. So. That, that just helped a lot of people get started.

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**Question:** That's amazing because you forget that part of it. You know, everybody talks about the war, what happened during the war, but you forget world war ended and now, something has to happen to America

**Answer:**

**Answer:** All these people went to college.. Thousands, hundreds of thousands. I wonder if they know how many hundreds of thousands of people went to college and used their GI bill. That couldn't have gone before.

**Question:** I'm sure somebody somewhere has the statistics on that.

**Answer:** But you know, that made my generation much more literate. Then -- half of those people became CEO's of big companies and managers. The men, and now my -- both of my twin brothers graduated from college. They went, they couldn't have gone without the GI bill. And as soon -- now, one of them came, got home and put his, well I put in for -- to stay in a dorm when I first got home. But you see, when you've got 3000 veterans coming, they didn't have any space for them. They were lining them up in the gym on sleeping bags over there at Washington State College. And so one of my brothers had a place to stay but the other one got -- didn't get home until just before September. He didn't get out. He was in the Army Air Corps. So they said there's just no place for you and so my mother wrote the president of the college. My mother was a great writer. She wrote the president of the college and she said my son's been in the Army for several years and they just came out and now they say there isn't a place to stay. And the president wrote back and he said you tell them both to come and we'll find them a place to stay, so they did. (laughs) I must take after her cause I write letters all the time to the editor and to Tom Brockaw and everybody else that I -- the senators.

**Question:** Your mom sounds great.

**Answer:** Oh, she was. She was a real entrepreneur.

**Question:** Now I mis-pronounce it all the time -- the adjunct --

**Answer:** Adjutant --

**Question:** Adju-

**Answer:** A-D-J-U-T-A-N-T -- adjutant general's school.

**Question:** What is that? Explain that to me.

**Answer:** Well, they taught -- they taught Army Administration. And that was their main function. I may have something over there in my scrapbook. I think I do, that says the -- what the adjutant general school. It was a whole segment, that trained people to keep the records. And every -- every group, every division, every barracks, everywhere, they had to have somebody typing up the records. You had to keep records if you had your shots and your rank and something happen to you, who they notify, you know, all this type of thing. And your training, if you've gone to this school or that school, to give you the jobs. Just imagine keeping track of all the people that were in the Army, all of those records.

**Question:** Pre-computer.

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**Answer:** Pre-computer.

**Question:** Well, how did they -- because you've got Fort Lewis and you've got Fort Benning, and all these soldiers, hither and yon, and -- was there --

**Answer:** That's why you had a lot of clerical help. And they did it on -- we didn't have electric typewriters either, you know. (laughs) Old manual typewriters, that's how we learned to type. Yep, well, not like -- (gestures) maybe some of the men, but not the girls. But that's how they kept track. So that was a -- I think it was a pretty important thing. You know, and then they had all kinds of school. If you -- if you were in the Infantry, you went to Fort Benning, Georgia, learned how to march. And they still have -- Fort Benning it's still there. And then if you were in the artillery, you went to artillery school, you know, and they have all these schools. And then in the Navy the same way. And all the services. They have all these schools and all this training that you have to go through. But you know when you think about it, it's amazing. When Pearl Harbor happened and you know they -- how many ships they sunk -- they practically ruined our whole Navy. And how this country geared up, and the women went to work in the factories and they -- because the men all went in the service, and how we did it, it's amazing. It's an amazing story. And then when the men came home, you've seen movies -- old movies. Then the women lost their jobs. And you may not know this but in -- in the '30s here in Olympia, if you were married and your husband had a job, you couldn't work for the State.

**Question:** That's right, only one of them, right? Wow.

**Answer:** And when my sister got married she had to quit her job cause her husband worked for the brewery. (laughs) So that was -- that was another whole segment after the war. All these women, Rosie the Riveter and whatever, you know, worked in the airplane factories all over the country. And they got working and they liked earning money, they'd never had any money before. And then when the men came home, a lot of men, they had to fire all the women cause the men needed the jobs. So that -- that was another whole different segment of the era, what happened.

**Question:** Gosh, you know, I've thought about that a little bit but not the full implications of what that meant. Because I didn't even think about -- well, yeah, your own pay check, that your husband's over fighting the war or boyfriend or whatever, so --

**Answer:** Yeah, and you're kind of independent now where you've always been the homemaker, and he does out the money to you. It's a different era now, but I mean in those days, it was something else.

**Question:** So the war was over, the men came back and they said --

**Answer:** The women -- a lot of women had lost their jobs. Now a lot of, of course the men went back to college, a lot of them. Hundreds of thousands of them. I'd like to know how many. Because that educated a whole generation from the -- from the depression.

**Question:** The other thing I heard that was an interesting aspect is that a lot of these people that came back and went to college were ready to go to college for very realistic -- I mean, they -- they --

**Answer:** They matured.

**Question:** Yeah.

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**Answer:** Especially the fellows that were fighting. Just think how they matured. They were 18 years old and they went in there bombing or they're out fighting on Battle of the Bulge, and when they got home, they had matured many years, yeah. So -- it's a shame they don't teach more of this in schools.

**Question:** Well, that's what this is for.

**Answer:** Good.

**Question:** And that's what -- I mean, because it is -- the history books, and again I was a poor history student, I think probably because I had a poor history teacher. But I didn't -- the names and dates, to me that's really irrelevant.

**Answer:** Yeah.

**Question:** To me it's more that you understand the people and mind sets and why things were the way they were. Cause you are right, and I hadn't even thought about that aspect of it. The whole post-war, I mean, there's this whole thing that has to happen back at home now that --

**Answer:** Well, the baby boomers. Our first daughter was born in '51. Now everybody came back in '46 -- the war was over in '45 and most of the people were going to get out in '46. And then -- then we had Korea in '50 and so some people -- now, the men -- when I worked down in Los Angeles before my -- our oldest daughter was born, I worked for the Army, after I was married, at Fort MacArthur. It was named after General MacArthur. And these guys were officers from World War II and they went to Korea

**Answer:** One of the men I worked for down there, he was a sweet old guy. He had been in the cavalry in the depression. He made \$20 a month in the late '20s and early '30s. So even our generals, look at MacArthur and Eisenhower and all of these generals had, Patton, they'd all gone through the military schools. Annapolis is the Navy. The Army. And there was no war, when they got through. See, they went through after World War I. So, like Patton, he was just aching to get into a war, you know, that's what they say. So World War II came along, they were all 1st and 2nd lieutenants, and look how they ended up. So they were -- they were ready. They were mature, they had the education, and so boy, were they promoted fast. They led the battles, the Navy and the Army. These -- these men. So some of them were still in when the Korean War started. They were expecting to be thrown out. I know I worked for a captain and a major then and they were afraid they were going to get thrown out, or have to go down to enlisted man's rank. Well, Korea came and then they went to Korea

**Answer:** And then of course Viet Nam, some of them were in Viet Nam even. So -- but if they didn't stay in the Army. But you know, everybody was so anxious to get out. So -- and - - it never occurred to me to stay in. One of the gals did stay in, and she stayed in for 20 or 30 years and retired, now she has a nice retirement. It never occurred to me to do that. I couldn't wait to get home. I wanted to go back to school. Do all these things girls were supposed --

**Question:** Wanted to get out of those khakis.

**Answer:** Yeah.

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**Question:** Now your husband served also?

**Answer:** Yeah, he was in the Army, too.

**Question:** And what was his rank?

**Answer:** Corporal. (laughs)

**Question:** Hm-hmm.

**Answer:** But we were out -- we were out of uniform when -- when we met so it was all right. (laughs) He was in -- what was he in? He was in Alaska, I can't remember what he did up in Alask

**Answer:** But you know they - for awhile they thought, you know, the Japanese would come -- come down in Alask

**Answer:**

**Question:** Well, yeah, because they came into the Aleutian Chain, they came into Kiska, up in that area, the far end of the Aleutian Chain and they -- yeah.

**Answer:** Yeah. Now his brother -- my husband was a twin, too. His twin brother was in the Battle of the Bulge and he came out okay. And then my brother was in the Battle of the Bulge. But -- and his brother didn't want to go back to school, my husband wanted to go back and get his degree, so he did.

**Question:** He wouldn't have met you if he hadn't.

**Answer:** What?

**Question:** He wouldn't have met you if he hadn't have gone back to school.

**Answer:** (laughs) All these men I met and went with during the Army, and I came home and I go back and I meet my husband standing in line to get books.

**Question:** I had a -- who was that guy yesterday, there was a -- oh, yeah, this nice woman. She was a nurse, and she had been at the Bulge but her memory wasn't full -- but when she came back her husband and they were having their first child. It was a daughter. And he quickly thought of a name -- I think it was Amy. Nice short name, everybody really liked it. Well, as time went by, they discovered where this Amy name came from. They thought he'd just -- had made it up. Well it was a Red Cross gal that he met during World War II.

**Answer:** I was going to say, an old girl friend. (laughs)

**Question:** So, luckily their daughter has a sense of humor and found it amusing that -- because he sounded like a wild one.

**Answer:** Oh, there's a lot of things -- I -- one of my -- my dear girlfriend, Mildred. She never did marry. And she was a little older than I was. But she'd had a hard time growing up, her father had died and she'd had to quit school and -- after the 8th grade, but then she did go to business college so she had a job in the office, too. She met this man, young man,

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and I -- I guess they were engaged, and then he left, I think he'd come there to the school. And he left cause he went back to his duty. And then he was in an accident. And so they called her and she got leave and went.. When she got to the hospital, his wife was there.

**Question:** Oh, boy.

**Answer:** She never married. So evidentially he and his wife were separated but he still - - how they had his wife's name and Mildred's name, both on his records, I don't know. Somebody didn't do good record keeping. So that was awful, awful shock.

**Question:** But I'm sure there was a number of --

**Answer:** Oh, so many. Must have been.

**Question:** of the people coming and going and things. I hear the ones that knew they were going -- these are the ones that kill me. They knew they were going, they were just maybe in boot or maybe they'd met the gal just before that, and in their furlough they get married. And I'm thinking, wow, he's going over there, and we're going to get married. Cause I know a lot of those guys aren't coming back. Maybe I'll wait till you come back before - but no, they get married.

**Answer:** Well some of them got married, you know, so that if something happened to them, they'd get their \$10,000 life insurance policy. That's why --

**Question:** No, I didn't know that.

**Answer:** Oh, sure. Because all the men going into the Army had to take this \$10,000 life insurance policy. The women didn't have to. And I regret -- I already had one with Metropolitan Life, so I didn't take it and I always regretted that I didn't take it. And, oh, sure, that's why a lot of gals married these guys. And then if they got killed they got their \$10,000 life insurance policy. Isn't that awful, but it's true.

**Question:** And then if they came home, they dump them.

**Answer:** Then they dump them.

**Question:** Wow, there's two sides to every coin, I guess.

**Answer:** And you know after -- this is another thing the GI Insurance, they called it. We were -- when we first moved to LA we got a letter from the War Department and it said you're \$10,000 life insurance policy is -- you have to convert it to a 30/pay life. And it's going -- and it's not going to be \$10,000 any more, it's going to be \$3,000. And you have to do this, so you know, so he did -- we did it. And it was \$5.10 a month and you know, I have friends around town here and they -- they dropped it. They said we just couldn't afford the \$5.10 a month, you know, the salaries were only about \$150 a month and they had to pay rent and had a car and they were having babies, and so they dropped it. So we kept it. My husband kept it. And so pretty soon the 30 years was up and it was paid for. So now this is \$3,000. So pretty soon he just started leaving the dividends in, and when he passed away, I had -- the policy was worth over \$15,000. I couldn't believe it. Isn't that something?

**Question:** Wow. From \$5 a month.

**Answer:** Five dollars and ten cents a month for 30 years.

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**Question:** That's one thing that my generation forward doesn't understand -- that -- to look forward like that. To be able -- everything has to be today.

**Answer:** Yeah. But I don't -- I don't have any insurance. And I -- so I was always sorry that I didn't take that out. But that would have been another \$5 -- we probably couldn't have afforded \$10 a month. (laughs)

**Question:** Pushed you over the limit right there.

**Answer:** Right. But this dear friend of mine, and he was in the Navy and he said -- I said how come you didn't keep your policy up? And he said, well, we just couldn't afford \$5.10 a month for insurance. So. You know I tell my kids these stories and they say, oh, Mother. (laughs) You know they -- they're the baby boomers. And I think it's partly my generation's fault -- I think it is with my kids anyway. Although I have two wonderful girls and they're both college graduates and they both have good jobs and everything. But they just -- they've had everything. And even though we didn't have anything, we said, boy, we didn't have anything when we were growing up, we were -- we were in the depression. Our kids are going to have everything. So we spoiled them. So it's partly my generation's fault that a lot of these baby boomers are maybe the way they are.

**Question:** Well I know my mom and dad -- my mom passed away not too long ago, but she and I talked about that a lot. And she had said things like that. And I kept saying, but Mom, there's no book, there is nothing written to tell you how to do it. You were doing the best -- cause she kind of felt guilty about it. But that was it. You wanted your kids to have better than what you had, you thought. And that's what you were trying to do.

**Answer:** But you know, even during the depression, there were six children in our family so there were eight of us. And we had everything. And my -- like my brother said, he said, "I didn't know we were poor." We were just like everybody else.

**Question:** And you didn't know any different.

**Answer:** Yeah.

**Question:** I mean, because that's --

**Answer:** Yeah. We had fun. We played out in the street, and we had make over clothes and we always had food on the table. You know, we thought not a thing about it. So uh, but it's hard to explain that to generation. You know back there in Washington D.C., I have a picture of it. The Roosevelt -- Roosevelt's Memorial, it's just two or three years old now. And they have bronze statues of a bread line, because that's what they did in those days. Of course now they have welfare. They didn't have it then.

**Question:** Yeah, that temporary welfare that they started.

**Answer:** Yeah. I don't think we'll ever be able to get rid of it.

**Question:** Nope.

**Answer:** But anyway, two years ago, let's see, two years ago, yeah. We went back to Washington D.C. for the inauguration of the Women's Memorial. And they built this beautiful memorial, right at the entrance to Arlington National Cemetery, and they were about 46,000

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women there. And we had a little reunion of our group of all these -- all these old women from World War II. They -- boy, it was really -- it was a wonderful affair. It was for three days, and it was very well put together and everything. And so they -- now they're trying to get a World War II Memorial back in Washington, D.C. They don't have a World War II memorial. Bob Dole, I think, is in charge of that. And it's going to be -- have you ever been to Washington?

**Question:** No.

**Answer:** It's going to be, oh you should go, it's a wonderful place to visit. In front, along the tidal basin in front of the -- the Washington Monument. But they're having problems.

**Question:** I was just going to say. I bet they're -- they're still negotiating on that.

**Answer:** I just read the other day they've got so much money but so many of them didn't want it built in that location.

**Question:** Exactly, cause they -- when they -- because they broke dirt, they broke ground, but they brought out this trough of dirt and did it because they weren't sure if that's exactly where it was going to be.

**Answer:** You know that tidal basin there in front of the Washington Monument, my husband, he said when they were little kids, they used to sail little boats up and down there. Now you can't. In fact I think this is interesting. He was raised in Washington, D.C., and when -- when they used to inaugurate the presidents, you could run right up -- they had all these trees -- they'd climb up the trees and watch the inauguration.

**Question:** Yeah, try that today.

**Answer:** You're -- you're way away. They've got blockades in front of Pennsylvania Avenue out in front of the White House now.

**Question:** And you set me up for a good Arkansas joke when you were saying about bad Arkansas education and I left the Clinton jokes -- you didn't -- you didn't reach for that one there.

**Answer:** Well, it is. I think it's the worst education. And I guess in the South yet, there are -- the education is a -- I hope that changes now pretty soon. Maybe they'll be able to help.

**Question:** Now you kind of answered one question I had -- the fact that you went back to see the Women's Memorial back there.

**Answer:** Right.

**Question:** And I was wondering if, because I know that there is a, for lack of a better word, a discrimination, men, women, black, white, green, purple, when in the service and which branch works on which and were women second class citizens within the service? Do you view yourself -- it's kind of a hard one because you can't get in the head of some other veteran. But when they talk -- veterans, World War II, is that all-inclusive vision for you? Do you see yourself in there?



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**Answer:** Oh, sure, I'm proud that I was in World War II. That I was serving in World War II. And when we go -- when you go to concerts now in Washington Center for the Performing Arts and they -- and they have these bands and they say veterans, stand up, and there's -- I'm not the only woman. There's quite a few women that were in the different services. Army was first, had women and then the Navy then the Marine Corps. I don't know if the Coast Guard -- I think the Coast Guard finally had women. But I guess -- I guess they did a lot of good. Well, one of -- one of the things -- I've got a lot of things over there in little scrap books, that the women -- they brought the women in so they men could go and fight. Which sounds awful now, doesn't it to say that. Now they want the women to be in battle, too. I don't think women should fight. So I'm way behind on the women's movement. I don't think the women should be on the front lines with the men. Some women think they should so, but. Anyway, I wish they did give more -- I was so mad at my husband. He did a lot of work with the Tumwater schools with his Kiwanis Club, and he was over there one day and this was several years ago. And they said well we have to go to history class. We have to go to class. He says what class. And they said history. He said what are you studying. And he said oh, we're studying World War II. And he said, oh, they said why don't you come and tell us about World War II. So he went in and they kept him there for a half a day. And he -- all these classes -- he was talking about World War II. But the thing that made me -- so somebody asked him, what was the thing you remembered most about World War II and he said the girls. I could have killed him. But --

**Question:** Yeah, but half of your response is the guys, so --

**Answer:** I know but it's different. (laughs) So anyway, and now my one daughter is a teacher here in town and she went to Europe and taught for years. When she came back she had to substitute for awhile before she could get on again. And so they offered her a job as social studies teacher in the high school. She's elementary. She came home and said, well, she said, I could take this class. She said, "Mother, they study World War II for about four hours." I said that's ridiculous, four hours. But they just don't -- they don't teach the kids.

**Question:** They passed a bill last year, House Bill blah, blah, blah, B2798. Dealt with changing that. And that's what this --

**Answer:** That's what this is for.

**Question:** This project is a result of, yeah.

**Answer:** Well they talk about the Civil War and the Revolutionary War, I don't know why they leave out World War II.

**Question:** You know, that's what's hard to say. Especially now with our politically correct society and all of that. You know, that -- I mean, that's our history.

**Answer:** Yeah.

**Question:** I mean, that is what happened. And -- and hopefully, I'm really hoping that this project will help teachers be able to be good -- good teachers.

**Answer:** I hope so.

**Question:** To -- to -- so kids can hear the real voices of the people. As I said, rather than names and dates and places.

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**Answer:** Right.

**Question:** But let me understand what war meant -- what America was like beforehand, what it was after. I mean just the idea of patriotism. To hear these people talk about this -- Pearl Harbor, and instantly the country being galvanized and the people.

**Answer:** Absolutely.

**Question:** Because the generation now --

**Answer:** Well, Viet Nam had something to do with the generation now.

**Question:** And the interesting thing -- Buck Harmon who we interviewed -- who flew, was in the Air Force, Air Corps, was at Oly High School. And he was about half way through his presentation before he realized that the kids thought he was talking about Viet Nam.

**Answer:** (laughs) Instead of World War II.

**Question:** Instead of World War II. And didn't even really understand that there was A World War II. And we're an educated society, and I mean I'm not a scholar, I'm not a history scholar, but that was just so mind-boggling to me.

**Answer:** That's terrible.

**Question:** But then you start looking at the ages and -- that's it. And their view of Viet Nam.

**Answer:** Yeah, but you know what the problem is, it's the people who -- who are writing the textbooks.

**Question:** Well, that's --

**Answer:** That's the whole thing. The curriculum.

**Question:** I -- I'll tell you what an adventure that is.

**Answer:** Yeah. Now I was just down south on a cruise on the Mississippi River, and I'm telling you, they're still fighting the Civil War down there.

**Question:** Oh, that's -- people tell me slavery's dead but I don't believe it -- I haven't been down to the South but I mean it's --

**Answer:** Don't ever believe that there isn't still the integration. And we -- we took a tour of Vicksburg and they're still fighting the Civil War and, but I don't know why we can't fight World War II also like they're -- that's their main -- in Vicksburg, that's their main way of earning money is going through the battlefields.

**Question:** Do you think that there was a message from World War II for future generations that don't exist now?

**Answer:** I don't know. Of course it depends on the country. You know, we -- I'm sorry to say, but the last eight years we've let our military go to pot. And I hope it gets built up again. But now it's so different. We'll never fight another war like World War II or even like

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the Gulf War because the missiles and all, the technology and everything. So I don't know what the message would be, except the country needs to be prepared. We're the greatest country on earth and we need to be prepared. So this business of sending our troops the way we're sending them now is bad, bad news.

**Question:** Baby sitters.

**Answer:** Yeah. And I just read the other day that there, now they're sending them out of, oh the people that are in the Reserves -- they're calling them up and sending them over to Bosnia

**Answer:** They're not liking that. Cause it's a good deal, you're in the Reserves, you go a couple times a month, and then you get a nice retirement. Well, that's.