Todd Family Scholarship Veterans Interview Project
Suggested Questions for a Veteran of World War II (Marines)

Use these suggestions as a starting point and make your own outline for the interview. Remember, each interview will be different and not all questions will apply.

Introduction

Begin your interview by stating the following:

- Date
- Location (city, state)
- Your name
- Interviewee’s name

Example: Today’s date is August 1, 2019. My name is John Smith and this is an interview with Jane Doe in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. When is your birthday?

- Where were you born?
- When is your birthday?
- Who was your father?
- And your mother?
- What was her maiden name?
- Where did you start school?
- Who was your favorite teacher?
- When and where did you graduate high school?
- What were the major stores in your town?
- Describe the house you lived in.
- How did the Great Depression affect you and your family?
- What chores did you do around the house of the farm?
- Was there a movie theater in your town?
- What was the name of the theater?
- How often would you go to the movies?
- Do you remember when Japan invaded China?
- Do you remember when Germany invaded Poland in 1939?
- Theaters would often show News of the World and color cartoons. What did you think when you saw what Japan was doing in China, and what Germany was doing in Europe?
- What did you do after high school?
- Where were you December 7, 1941?
- What did you think when you heard about the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor?
- After the war started, did you help with the scrap metal drives or rubber drives?

Entering the Military

- When did you join the marines?
- Where did you go for boot camp?
- How did you travel there?
• Tell me about the trip on the train.
• Where did you sleep on the train?
• Tell me about boot camp.
• What type of training did you have in boot camp?
• What weapon did you train with at boot camp?
• What is your most vivid memory of boot camp?
• How long did boot camp last?
• Tell me about your drill instructors.

Military Service

• What unit were you assigned to?
• Did you go overseas?
• If so, what ship were you on?
• You left the United States from what port?
• Tell me about the trip overseas.
• Where were your quarters on the ship?
• How were the meals on the ship?
• Where did the ship land?
• What did you do after the ship landed?
• Did you go into combat and if you did, what happened?
• When did you see your first enemy soldier?
• Where were you when the war ended?
• When you heard about V-E Day (V-J Day), what did you think?
• Tell me about coming home.
• Where did the ship land?
• What did you think when you went under the Golden Gate Bridge?

• When were you discharged?
• What did you do after you were discharged?
• Would you join the marines again?
• How do you want to be remembered?