

# Todd Family Scholarship Veterans Interview Project

## Suggested Questions for a Veteran of World War II (Navy)

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.

- 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

- Did you enlist or were you drafted?
- If you enlisted, why did you choose the service branch you joined?
- Where did you go for boot camp or basic training?

- 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 is your most vivid memory of boot camp?
- How long did boot camp last?
- Tell me about your drill instructors.
- What type of training did you have after boot camp?

### **Military Service**

- What ship did you serve aboard?
- Where did you go aboard the ship?
- To what division were you assigned?
- Where were your quarters on the ship?
- Describe your quarters.
- What was your average day on the ship?
- What watches did you stand?
- What were your duties on the ship?
- What was your average day on the ship?
- Where were your general quarters on the ship?
- Where was your place to abandon ship?
- When you went aboard, where did the ship go?
- Who was captain of the ship?
- Did your ship come under fire?
- How long were you on the ship?
- What is your most vivid memory of the ship?
- When you heard about V-E Day (V-J Day), what did you think?
- When did you get your discharge?
- What did you do after you were discharged?
- Would you join the military again?
- How do you want to be remembered?